

1985

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WKU baseball clinic

The nation's colleges are right in the midst of basketball season, but Joel Murrie is talking Western baseball.

Murrie, who is about to enter his sixth year as head coach of the Hilltopper batmen, will be talking about his sport even more Saturday, Jan. 19, when he hosts the first-ever Western baseball clinic.

Murrie, who still looks young enough to be playing college ball himself, has gotten some of the top names in the sport to come to town and talk baseball with little leaguers, managers, parents and anybody else who wants to discuss America's favorite pastime.

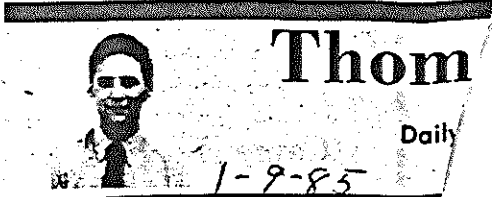
"Baseball is very well organized at the youth level in our area," Murrie said. "And I felt like if we brought in some of the top instructors in the game of baseball, then we'd not only be helping the local players out, but the coaches and parents, too."

The instructors will go over the fundamentals and skills of the sport. It will be more involved than just talk. Drills will be discussed and diagrams shown to help develop the knowledge and work habits of players and coaches alike.

I wonder if they can tell me how to keep my eyes open when a line drive comes hurling at me in the infield. I don't have to worry about that too much now, at my age, but it sure would've been less painful for me during my Little League days when I'd end up catching the ball with my stomach or chest. I still have nightmares about it.

But for those attending, all your concerns, like mine above, can be answered in the question and answer sessions that will follow to allow for development of individual needs.

On hand, in addition to Murrie, who has amassed a 174-95 record at Western and has been awarded



more coaching honors from the Sun Belt Conference and the NCAA than room here allows for, will be Dean Bowyer, Steve Garland, Grady Little and Steve Hamilton.

Bowyer, in his ninth year as Mankato (Maine) State's head coach, has led his team to six NCAA Division II postseason tournaments. Before going into coaching, Bowyer played ball with the Baltimore Orioles' organization. His overall college coaching record in 13 years is 228-111. He will be discussing the art of hitting and baserunning techniques.

Garland, in his second year as head trainer for the New York Mets, will discuss year round

geared to youth

as T. Ross

/ News Sports Editor
Commentary

maintenance of baseball players — like superstar Dwight Gooden.

Along with Gooden, he has helped in the development of what has been termed at the best young pitching staff in the major leagues. Names like Orosco, Darling and Terrell stick out.

Little, voted one of the 10 best managers in the minors in 1984, will give some hints on catching and fundamental infield play.

He spent nine years catching for the Atlanta Braves and the New York Yankees before moving onto managing with the Orioles and most recently with Toronto's club.

Former Western coach Barry Shollenberger, who Murrie assisted

before becoming head coach, was scheduled to attend and discuss pitching mechanics and basic pitching drills, but had to cancel.

In his stead, Murrie said, will be Hamilton, a former Yankee and currently the head coach of Morehead State. Hamilton also used to be the Detroit Tigers' pitching coach.

And last but not least, Western's own Murrie will discuss basic outfield drills.

"We feel like we got some of the best people, when it comes to giving excellent instruction in the fundamentals of baseball, coming to town," Murrie said.

"I'm asked to speak about baseball fundamentals a lot, on an individual basis," Murrie continued.

"Most of us in this business are asked to do that. But with our jobs, with the season being so long, it's hard to find the time to speak at

that many engagements.

"You spread yourself too thin. But with this clinic, kids, coaches and parents can get it all in one shot from some excellent teachers."

Registration deadline has been extended to Jan. 15 due to the holidays, Murrie said. The student preregistration fee is \$6 and \$16 per coach and adult. At the door, the prices are \$7.50 and \$20, respectively. Team rates are available upon request.

All persons registering prior to Jan. 15, Murrie said, will receive a complimentary ticket to that Saturday's SBC basketball matchup between Western and Alabama-Birmingham.

The teaching process begins at 8 a.m. Jan. 19 at the Greenwood Executive Inn. There will be a break for the basketball game (12 p.m.-3 p.m.), then the clinic will resume at about 4 p.m. The clinic is scheduled to end at 6:30 p.m.

Western baseball dates set

Joel Murrie, Western's baseball coach, has announced the Hilltoppers' schedule for the 1985 season.

Western, which is returning 14 lettermen this year, opens its 65-game season Feb. 23-24 at Georgia for a two-game series.

Western, which finished third (6-10) in the West Division of the Sun Belt Conference, last year, opens at home March 2 in a 1 p.m. contest against Ohio Valley Conference member Middle Tennessee.

Murrie, whose record at Western is 174-95 in five years, continues to contract a tougher schedule with each passing year.

"It's the only way a team improves," said Murrie, whose team went 23-29-2 overall last year.

"A friend of mine was looking at our schedule the other day and asked me where the patsies were," he continued. "Well, I told him we didn't schedule any. We want to play the tough teams."

In addition to league play with division teams South Alabama, South Florida and Alabama-Birmingham, the Hilltoppers will face many Southeastern Conference teams, most of which are perennial baseball powers.

In addition to Tennessee, Vanderbilt and Georgia, the Hilltoppers are scheduled to play Kentucky in a three-game series in May to highlight the end of the regular season.

The league tournament, with the site yet to be announced, will be played May 10-12.

Here's Western's 1985 schedule, with double-headers noted by * :

Feb 23—Georgia	A
Feb 24—Georgia	A
Feb 28—Cumberland*	A
Mar 1—Middle Tennessee	H
Mar 2—Middle Tennessee	H
Mar 5—Louisville	A
Mar 7—Evansville*	A
Mar 9—Troy State	A
Mar 10—Troy State	A
Mar 11—Florida State	A
Mar 12—Florida State	A
Mar 13—Valpariso	Panama City, Fla.
Mar 14—Missouri	Panama City, Fla.
Mar 15—South Alabama	A
Mar 16—South Alabama	A
Mar 17—South Alabama	H
Mar 19—Tennessee	H
Mar 20—Tennessee	H
Mar 21—Vanderbilt	H
Mar 23—Bowling Green State*	H
Mar 24—Bowling Green State	H
Mar 25—Bellarmine	A
Mar 26—Vanderbilt	A
Mar 27—Ferris State	H
Mar 29—South Florida	A
Mar 30—South Florida	A
Mar 31—South Florida	H
Apr 2—Indiana State*	A
Apr 3—Austin Peay	H
Apr 4—Middle Tennessee	H
Apr 5—St. Mary's (Minn.)*	H
Apr 6—Alabama-Birmingham*	H
Apr 7—Alabama-Birmingham*	H
Apr 8—Cumberland (Tenn.)	H
Apr 10—Samford	H
Apr 11—Bellarmine	H
Apr 12—South Alabama	H
Apr 13—South Alabama	H
Apr 14—South Alabama	H
Apr 16—Middle Tennessee	A
Apr 18—Cumberland (Tenn.)	A
Apr 20—Alabama-Birmingham*	A
Apr 21—Alabama-Birmingham*	A
Apr 22—Samford	A
Apr 24—Indiana State*	H
Apr 25—Louisville	H
Apr 27—South Florida	H
Apr 28—South Florida	H
Apr 29—South Florida	H
Apr 30—Morehead State	Paintsville
May 2—Austin Peay	H
May 3—Kentucky	Elizabethtown
May 4—Kentucky	A
May 5—Kentucky	Site TBA
May 10-11—SBC Tournament	

Baseball fever is now hitting state

WKU swimmers face Bradley

D-16 2-1-85
Western's swimming team is scheduled to take on long-time rival Bradley University at 1 p.m. tomorrow at Diddle Arena pool.

"They're always tough," said Western head coach Bill Powell. "They swim well during the season, but we're better matched with them this year than ever before."

At press time, the meet is still planned despite the weather.

"As far as I know, they'll be coming down," Powell said.

Bradley (3-5) defeated Eastern Illinois last week, and has yet to lose a dual meet to Western. In last year's match-up with Bradley, the Hilltoppers (4-1) were put down 66-47.

But Bradley finished behind Western in all three relays at the Midwest championships last year, and that could be a key factor tomorrow.

Western has never beaten Bradley in a regular season meet and has never lost to the Braves in postseason competition.

Bradley is strong in the butterfly, according to Powell, and the Braves' Mike Murray, Rob Schackle, and Bjorn Andersen placed high in last year's championship meet.

Even if the Bradley team has talent in the butterfly, the Hilltoppers will be able to counter some of that threat with depth among the freestylers. Led by senior Steve Crocker, Western has shown strength particularly in the shorter events so far this season.

That strength became evident again last week when a 400-yard relay team composed of Crocker, Mike Neal, Dan Powell, and Jay McAtee beat a former Bradley pool record with a 3:08.21 during a meet against Eastern Kentucky. Western ended up with a 69-44 win against the Colonels.

Baseball fever is already beginning to spread in Kentucky since the basketball season is nothing to write home about with Western, Louisville and Kentucky all struggling to win.

But Western coach Joel Murrie is putting his batmen through two-a-day drills now in preparation for their season opener Feb. 23 at Georgia, while the Louisville Redbirds are about to go on tour to promote their April 12 opener against visiting Indianapolis.

Including a visit to Bowling Green on Thursday, Feb. 7 at the Greenwood Mall. In the past, Redbird owner A. Ray Smith has conveyed his enthusiasm to the fans by staging "Night of the Stars," extravaganza. This year, he is taking it one step further for the American Association champions with a winter caravan.

The annual bash begins, with guests like Billy "Float like a butterfly" Martin and Billy Herman in attendance, at 5:30 p.m. CST this Saturday at Louisville's Broadbent Arena. Then the six-day, 16-town tour begins the following Monday.

Martin, a former manager with the New York Yankees, a couple times over, and the Oakland A's, is scheduled to go on the excursion, too.

"I think this is very flattering," said Irene Bates, the mall's marketing director and the caravan's Bowling Green contact. "They just want to visit the communities that they had ticket sales in during last season. They received some support from this area, otherwise I don't think they'd be coming here."

She said she plans to send notices to surrounding schools to let students, especially elementary children, know of the caravan stop.

"I think it's especially nice for the kids," she said. "How often do you get a chance to meet some big leaguers?"

Scheduled to come to town are Smith, the guy who brought professional baseball back to a state starved for it; manager Jim Fregosi; pitcher coach Dyar Miller; center fielder Vince Coleman; and Louisville's mascot, "Redbird."

Back to Western baseball. Murrie had about 200 people turn out for Western's first-ever baseball clinic held at the Greenwood Executive

Thomas T. Ross

Daily News
Sports Editor
Commentary

2-1-85

Inn a couple of weeks ago.

"It exceeded our expectations," Murrie said. "With that kind of turnout, I'm pretty excited about getting to work on next year's clinic."

Like anything else in its first year, the clinic was a struggle to get off the ground.

And despite competing clinics that went on in Louisville and Murfreesboro at the same time that brought in some guy named Pete Rose, Murrie considers the clinic a success.

"We had two high school baseball coaches from Louisville come in for our clinic," Murrie said. "Both of them told us if they had wanted an autograph, they would have stayed in Louisville or gone to Murfreesboro. But they wanted to learn more about baseball, so they came to Western. I'm proud of that. We shared a lot of good information that was beneficial for everyone there."

Murrie said talks by Dean Bowyer, formerly with the Baltimore Orioles and now in his ninth year as coach of Mankato State, and Steve Hamilton, Morehead State's coach, were particularly well received.

"They're teachers of the game," Murrie said, "and it showed by what they said and how they said it. Sometimes you bring a professional in, a name, and he has trouble conveying the lesson."

Joel Lepel, a Western assistant who is coordinating this Friday's free baseball clinic at Diddle Arena from 7 p.m.-9 p.m., added: "People who didn't know what was going on really missed something. We had some real good speakers who know how to teach the game."

Murrie said he is thinking of changing the one-day format to a Friday night, all-day Saturday schedule next year, along with adding other topics that were suggested by those at this year's clinic.

Tops' baseball team going on road trip

DA 2-28-85
Western's baseball team will travel south this week to take on the Bulldogs of Cumberland College (0-1) in Lebanon, Tenn., today for a 1 p.m. CST. double-header and the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders (1-0) Friday at 3 p.m., in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

"Both teams will offer a big challenge to our club," WKU Head Coach Joel Murrie said. "These teams get up to play us."

The Toppers are coming off a successful season-opening trip to Athens, Ga., where they defeated the Georgia Bulldogs 4-3 and 9-4.

"This was a great way to start the season," Murrie said. "Both games offered us an opportunity to see what our team can do in a variety of situations. "Saturday's game was about as well played as any coach or fan would like to see. Both teams played with a lot of

intensity," he added.

Sophomore Randy Strijek, junior transfer Rob Tomberlin and senior John Clem each had two hits in Saturday's win with Tomberlin and Clem both hitting home runs. Seniors Brien Blakely and Steve Page and freshman Juan Galan collected singles and senior Mike Roy had a double for the Toppers.

Junior Greg Bartek went five innings on the mound, picking up the win and giving up just eight hits and one earned run. Juniors Mike Trapp and Doug Taulbee saw relief action, but Eddie Jent came on in the ninth inning for the save.

"The difference in that game was our ability to capitalize on scoring opportunities and to make the big plays defensively when we needed it," Murrie said.

On Sunday, Western had another good day at the plate as Strijek

went three for five with one home run and Blakely and Roy each hit solo homers. Strijek and Roy also had doubles.

Senior pitcher Larry Shikles picked up his first win of the season, going five innings and surrendering five hits and only two earned runs. Freshman C.L. Thomas had the save.

"This game proved to me that our guys were not satisfied with a split," Murrie said. "We didn't have a let-up and went after the sweep."

"Our pitchers were aggressive and that kept us in the game," he added. "Overall, I think that was a reflection of Matt Logic's leadership behind the plate. And, the defense played at the level that we need to be a good ball club this year. I was also pleased that our hitters were very disciplined for so early in the season."

Tops sweep Cumberland

3-1-85

LEBANON, Tenn.— The Western Kentucky University baseball team took both halves of a doubleheader against Cumberland University here Thursday by winning the first game in an 11-2 romp before pulling off a 3-2 victory in the second.

In the first game, winning pitcher Mike Trapp gave up a run in the first inning and one in the fourth. It was Trapp's first win for a first try this season.

Trapp and his teammates led 3-2 going into the ninth inning, but Western put on an eight run scoring surge at the end to make the win decisive. Five Western players got extra base hits in the contest; Randy Strijek picked up a double in the fifth inning with one out, and Rob Tomberlin and Bruce Crossman grabbed another two doubles in the seventh, and Juan Galan hit a two-bagger in the sixth. In addition, Tomberlin was good for a home run in the third.

Western's 11 runs came off 13 hits while giving up two errors. Cumberland's effort managed three hits and four errors.

In the second game, Cumberland went into a 1-0 lead in the first inning, but Western tied it at 1-1 in the second. The Hilltoppers went ahead 2-1 in the fourth inning, and maintained that lead until Cumberland scored again in the eighth. A final run

in the ninth gave Western the win.

Western's Greg Bartek was the winning pitcher for the game, and he is now 2-0 for the season. Bartek threw six innings before being relieved by Eddie Gent in the seventh.

Only one Hilltopper had an extra-base hit in the contest; Tomberlin knocked out a double in the sixth inning.

John Jarosz U. Evans

Baseball

At Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Western Kentucky .073 .000 110 12 10 2
Middle Tennessee .000 .000 100— 1 2 4
Larry Shikles, Kevin Pearce (8), Bill Bonnahme (9) and Matt Logic, Mike Cullen (8), Steve Sonneberger, Ken Lomax (3), Craig Smith (8), Mark Comer (9) and Kim Gott, Dejuan Buford. W — Shikles (2-0). L — Sonneberger (1-1).
2B — Logic (W), Brian Biskley (W), Bobby Velez (W), Mike Roy (W). HR — Rob Tomberlin (W). Team records — Western 5-0, Middle 1-3.

WKU gets sixth victory, finishes sweep of MTSU

By PERRY GASKILL

Daily News Sports Writer

Western Kentucky took both parts of a two-game series against Middle Tennessee State by beating the Blue Raiders 12-1 in Murfreesboro on Friday and followed that up with a 13-9 victory at home on Saturday.

"We haven't been playing good lately," said MTSU coach John Stanford. "We didn't challenge them at all until late in the second game. We just haven't been hitting well."

The Hilltoppers (6-0) didn't find the Blue Raiders (1-4) any easier in the second contest; they led 10-0 at the bottom of the third inning and seemed to be able to hit almost at will. Most of their runs — seven — came in the second inning beginning with a senior catcher Matt Logic double good for two RBIs and followed by a homer each from senior second baseman Brien Blakely and junior third baseman Rob Tomberlin. Blakely's blast was also good for two RBIs. Tomberlin's for one.

But it was at the end of the third inning that the Hilltoppers' game almost fell apart, and it was for a strange reason.

WKU coach Joel Murrie said that his freshman pitcher, C.L. Thomas spent so much time on the bench watching his teammates score runs that he got cold and sore. Thomas pulled in the top of the fourth and was replaced with another man, John Bair.

"I think this was really two games," Murrie said of Saturday's game. "C.L. spent so much time in the dugout that he got sore. He's a franchise with us and we don't want to ruin him."

"So, when we pulled him out it changed the whole momentum of the game. We went to the bullpen and nobody was expecting it."

With Thomas out of the game, and the pitching changes of its own starting to perk things up, the Blue Raiders went on a scoring surge of their own and racked up eight points in the fifth and sixth innings while keeping Western scoreless. At the top of the seventh it was 10-8 Western, but the hitting streak by MTSU had gone cold.

In the bottom of the seventh, with the bases loaded, Tomberlin fired a one-bounce liner to the shortstop, and that hit was enough to drive in right fielder Gerald Ingram from third.

The Blue Raiders had one more good opportunity to move ahead, but couldn't make things go their way. In the top of the eighth, Murrie sent senior Eddie Jent in as relief pitcher, and Jent let the Raiders get the bases loaded with only one out. But Jent struck out the next batter, senior shortstop Gary Emerson, and when senior outfielder Martin Aldrich blasted a grounder to sophomore shortstop Randy Strijek, it forced junior third baseman Barry Chandler out at second.

MTSU picked up one more run in

the top of the eighth but Western followed that with two of its own, and when Hilltopper junior Mike Trapp struck out three men in the top of the ninth, it was all over.

"We can't really change anything right now," Stanford said. "We'll just have to wait and see what happens. The guys are trying a little too hard."

"We don't really have a club that can come out and blow everybody away. We just have to settle down and relax."

Murrie, who has been coaching the Hilltoppers for six years, was happy with the way his team has been playing so far this season.

"This is the best start for any club since I've been here," Murrie said. "We've made a lot of mistakes, but early in the season all teams make mistakes. We're just taking advantage because the other teams are making more."

In Friday's game, the Hilltoppers went into an early lead by blasting out seven runs in the second inning, and kept MTSU to a total of only two hits in the contest.

Western's Larry Shikles was the winning pitcher for the game. Shikles threw for seven innings until relieve by Kevin Pearce in the eighth and Bill Bonnahme in the ninth. Shikles now has two wins in two outings.

Friday's Game
Western Kentucky 673 000 110—12 10 2
Middle Tennessee 000 000 100—1 2 4
HRs—Western Kentucky, Tomberlin.
Saturday's Game
Middle Tennessee 000 530 010—9 12 1
Western Kentucky 172 000 12x—13 12 2
HRs—Clem, Ingram, Blakely, Tomberlin.

Western splits with Aces; begins nine-game swing

Coach Joel Murrie will take his Hilltopper baseball team (7-1) on the road today for the annual spring break swing. Western will begin the series of nine road games in Troy, Ala., against Troy State on Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. CST each day.

From Troy, the team travels to Tallahassee, Fla., to take on the nation's fourth ranked team, the Florida State Seminoles, March 11-12 at 6 p.m.

The Hilltoppers will then spend March 13-14 in Panaman City, Fla., playing Valparaiso before moving on to Mobile, Ala., for their first 1985 conference series against defending Sun Belt champion, South Alabama.

"There is not an easy opponent on the entire trip," Murrie said. "It will be the biggest challenge of the year for us. We're gearing everything toward being in the best possible condition to play USA, possibly the best team in the conference."

Murrie said he scheduled Troy State and Florida State prior to the

USA series because "we felt those teams would be indicative of the quality of baseball we'll see in Mobile."

Western is coming off the school's best start since E.A. Diddle's 1946 squad finished with a perfect 9-0 season record. After defeating Georgia in their first two games, the Hilltoppers continued their winning ways by crushing Cumberland (Tenn.) 11-2 and 3-2 in a Feb. 28 doubleheader.

The winning streak ended Thursday after the Hilltoppers split a doubleheader with visiting Evansville.

Western took the first game 3-1, but fell in the nightcap 8-2. In the opener, Larry Shikles (3-0) earned the win from the mound for Western, pitching seven innings. He gave up three hits, one run, one walk and struck out four Aces.

The loser was Dave Winger, who fell to 1-1. He pitched six innings, gave up seven hits, three runs, two walks and struck out three Hilltoppers.

Western got one run in the fourth inning, two in the sixth, and three in the eighth.

Hilltoppers Rob Tomberlin, John Clem and Matt Logic smacked doubles and the sole home run came off the bat of Evansville's

Keith Auville, who earned the win in the nightcap.

He pitched seven innings, gave up five hits, two runs, two walks and struck out one. Greg Bartek (2-1) of Western suffered the loss. He pitched three innings, gave up four hits, two runs, no walks and one strike out.

John Clem, Western's right fielder, smacked a solo homer for the Hilltoppers. Evansville upped its record to 8-6.

First Game	
Evansville	010 000 000-1 3 1
Western	000 102 03x-3 7 1
WP—Shikles. LP—Winger. HR—Evansville, Auville.	
Second Game	
Evansville	101 024 0-8 10 2
Western	000 020 0-2 5 7
WP—Auville. LP—Bartek. HR—Western, Clem.	

Crocker No. 4 in 50 freestyle

The NCAA has released its final top 25 swim rankings for each event before its March 28-30 national championships at Austin, Texas, and several members of Western's swim team are among the standings.

Headlining the list for the Hilltoppers is swimming sensation, Steve Crocker of Franklin, who is ranked No. 4 in the nation in the 50 freestyle.

Tom Jager of UCLA, the defending NCAA champion, is ranked No. 1 in the event with a time of 19.85; Mark Stockwell of Florida is No. 2 in 20.12; Matt Biondi of Cal-Berkley is No. 3 in 20.17; and Crocker is No. 4 in 20.18. Western's Dan Powell is ranked 25th in 20.68.

In the 100 freestyle, Crocker, who was recently named Midwest swimmer of the year and Western's male athlete of the year, is No. 20 in 44.90.

In the 100 butterfly, he is 12th in 49.10. In the 100 backstroke, Sean Herbert, a freshman, is ranked No. 22 in 52.16.

The freestyle relay team of Crocker, Powell, Jay McAtee and Mike Neal is ranked No. 19 in 3:02.47. The medley relay team of Crocker, McAtee, Herbert and Jerry Smith is ranked No. 24 in 3:25.27.

FSU beats Western 11-5

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida State scattered 15 hits against four Western pitchers Monday as the Seminoles beat the Hilltoppers 11-5 in collegiate baseball action here.

The Seminoles upped their record to 22-6 while the Hilltoppers, who play Florida State again at 5 p.m. CST today, fell to 8-3.

Mike Spearnock started on the mound for Western, but was relieved in the second by C.L. Thomas. Bill Vonnahme relieved him in the sixth and Eddie Jent took to the mound in the eighth. Spearnock, 0-1, took the loss.

Florida State's Richie Luis, 6-1, earned the win.

The Seminoles scored two runs in the first, three in the second, one in the sixth, and five in the eighth. They were led in hitting by Frank Frazzini, who belted his ninth home run of the season, and Jimmy Jones, who nailed his sixth homer of the year.

Western's Mike Roy smacked his third homer of the season, and Brien Blakely accounted for the Hilltopper's sole extra base hit, a double.

Western, which had four errors to

the Seminole's two, scored one run each in the second and fifth, and three in the sixth.

Then, Blakely hit his double, teammates Roger Daniel and Gerald Ingram walked, advancing Blakely to third. With the bases loaded, Juan Galan hit a sacrifice fly to right field, bringing Blakely home.

Daniel advanced to third, then scored on an error by the Seminole first baseman. Then Randy Strijek hit a ground out to the Seminole short stop to score Ingram. And Rob Tomberlin grounded out for the third out.

Western 010 010 300-5 2 4
Florida State 230 001 05x-11 15 2
Spearneck, Thomas (2), Vonnahme (6), Jent (8); Luis, W-Luis, 6-1, L-Spearneck, 0-1.
HRs-Western, Roy (3), Florida State, Fazzini (9), Jones (6).

LUCKY 59. At Troy, Ala.
 Western Kentucky .000 110 000-5 9 1
 Troy State .001 111 100-8 12 2
 Mike Trapp, Doug Taulbee (6), Mike Ballenger (8) and Matt Logic; Ronald Warren, Scott Baldwin (6) and Ray Stephens. W - Warren (4-0). L - Trapp (2-1). 2B - Randy Strieck (W). Ed Nix (TS), Dave Banks (TS). HR - John Clem (W). Buck Watford 2 (TS). Tim Wheat (TS).
 Team records - Western 7-2, Troy State 7-0. C J. 3-11-55

At Dothan, Ala.
 Western Ky. .260 010 163-19 24 1
 Troy State .110 100 000-3 8 2
 Greg Bartek, John Bair (7) and Matt Logic. Mike Cullen (8), Chuck Stenhope, Marcus Pilkinton (6), Tim Cribb (7) and Ray Stephens. W - Bartek (3-1). L - Stenhope (2-1). 2B - Logic (W). 2 Juan Galan (W), Tim Wheat (T). HR - Rob Tomberlin (W), John Clem (W). Mike Roy (W), Galan (W), Stephens (T). Team records - Western 6-2, Troy State 7-1. C J. 3-11-55

Baseball

Monday at Tallahassee, Fla.
 Western Kentucky 010 010 300-5 2 4
 Florida State .230 001 050-11 15 2
 Mike Spearnock, C. L. Thomas (2), Bill Vonnahme (6), Eddie Jent (8) and Matt Logic; Richie Lewis and Barry Blackwell. W - Lewis (6-1). L - Spearnock (0-1). 2B - Brian Blakely (WK). Eric Mangham (FS), Bien Siguerda (FS). 3B - Luis Alcoa 2 (FS). HR - Mike Roy (WK), Frank Fazzini (FS), Jimmy Jones (FS). Team records - Western Kentucky 8-3, Florida State 22-6. C J. 3-13-55

At Panama City, Fla. C J.
 Valparaiso .110 022 0-6 7 0
 Western Kentucky .001 210 1-5 5 2
 Tom Katula, Jeff Eichorn (7), Scott Leyne (7) and Eric Millholland. Mike Trapp, Doug Taulbee (6) and Mike Cullen and Matt Logic. W - Katula (?). L - Trapp (2-2). 2B - Randy Strieck (W). HR - John Clem (W), Rob Tomberlin (W), Eric Millholland (V), Todd Kirkpatrick (V), Kevin Spudis (V).

At Panama City, Fla.
 Marietta (O.) .022 010 0-5 7 1
 Western Kentucky .000 110 2-4 9 2
 Bob Eyler, Mike Brandts (7) and Joe Cavallo; Kevin Pearce, Mike Spearnock (3), Mike Ballenger (5), John Bair (6), Eddie Jent (7) and Matt Logic. W - Eyler. S - Brandts. L - Pearce (0-1). 2B - Brandts (M). HR - Rob Tomberlin 2 (W), Monte Duncan (M). C J. 3-15-55

At Mobile, Ala.
 Western Kentucky .000 200 0-2 8 0
 South Alabama .100 000 0-1 7 3
 Mike Spearnock, Bill Vonnahme (7) and Matt Logic; Mike Sassone, Mark Kangas (5) and Darius Hammac, Mike Thiege (6). W - Spearnock (1-1). L - Sassone (0-2). 2B - Hammac (SA). HR - Logic (WK).
 Western Kentucky .100 010 300-5 12 3
 South Alabama .132 000 001-6 9 3
 Larry Shikles, Mike Trapp (4), Eddie Jent (6), Vonnahme (9) and Logic; Greg Mills, Mark Kangas (7), Warren Hughes (7) and Hammac. W - Mills (2-3). L - Shikles (4-1). 2B - Rob Tomberlin (WK), John Clem (WK), Gerald Ingram (WK), Kirk White (SA), Hammac 2 (SF). 3B - Richie Hermann (SA), Mike Thiege (SA). HR - Tomberlin (WK). C J. 3-15-55

Friday at Mobile, Ala.
 Western Kentucky .115 500 022-16 18 1
 South Alabama .000 010 000-1 5 2
 Greg Bartek and Matt Logic; Warren Hughes, Jay Rogers (3), Kevin Raley (4) and Darius Hammac and Mike Thiege. W - Bartek (4-1). L - Hughes (2-3). 2B - Roger Daniel (W), Gerald Ingram (W), Eric Foss (SA), Mike Dull (SA). 3B - Randy Strieck (W), Gerald Ingram (W). HR - Rob Tomberlin (W), Mike Roy (W). Team records: Western Kentucky 10-5, South Alabama 5-7. C J. 3-17-55

Tops fall to Marietta

PANAMA CITY, Fla. — Western's baseball team dropped a 5-4 decision to Marietta College of Ohio here Thursday.

Western used five pitchers in the game, and Kevin Pearce took the loss for Western in his first start of the season. Marietta's Bob Eyler got his second win of the season and Mike Brandts got the save. Brandts also got a double as Marietta went to 9-2-1 on the year.

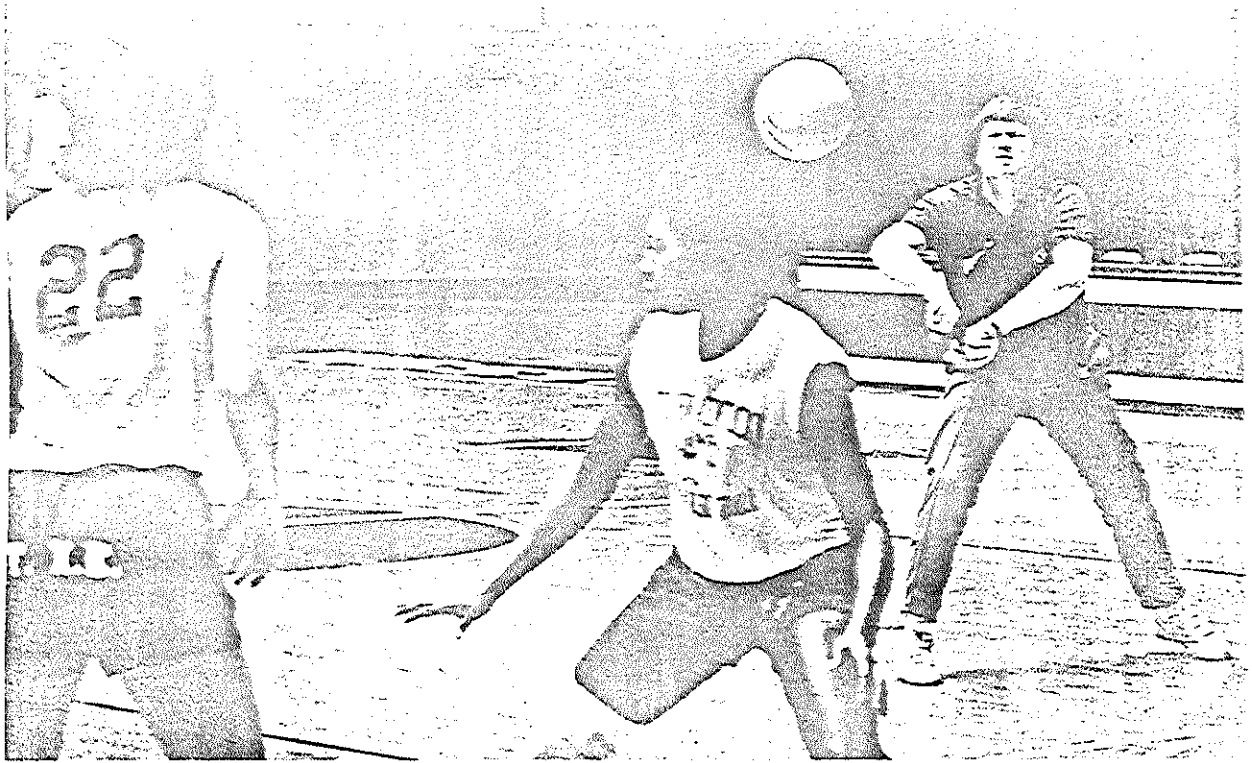
The Hilltoppers fell to 9-5 with the loss.

Rob Tomberlin had a two home runs for the Toppers, but there were no other extra base hits for Western in the game. Monte Duncan slammed a homer for Marietta.

Western is in Mobile, Ala., for a three-game series with Sun Belt Conference opponent South Alabama this weekend. The Hilltoppers will play a single game tonight at 7 o'clock CST. And single games Saturday and Sunday.

Western .000 110 2-4 9 2
 Marietta .022 010 0-5 7 1
 Pearce, Spearnock (3), Ballenger (5), Bair (6), Jent (7), Eyler, Brandts (7). W - Eyler, S - Brandts. L - Pearce (0-1). HRs - Western, Tomberlin (9), Marietta - Duncan.

D.N. 3-15-55



(Staff Photo by Mark Workman)

Coming at you

PAUL SANDERFORD, coach of Western's Lady Toppers, grimaces as he fires a pass to Kaml Thomas (22) and Annette "Cookie" Jones (center) gets ready on defense during the team's practice

session on Tuesday. The Lady Toppers are getting ready for their first-round NCAA Tournament game with Middle Tennessee. Western and MTSU play Sunday at Diddle Arena at 2:30 p.m.

3-73 57

Western falls 6-5

PANAMA CITY, Fla. ³⁻⁷⁴⁻⁵⁵ Western dropped a 6-5 decision to Valparaiso here Wednesday in collegiate baseball action.

The Hilltoppers, who play Valparaiso again at 12 p.m. CST today, fell to 9-4 on the season. Mike Trapp (2-2) took the loss and Valparaiso's Tom Katula earned the win and Scott Lane, who came on the mound in the seventh, the save.

Trapp pitched five innings, gave up five hits, four runs, three earned, two walks and rifled six strikeouts. Doug Taulbee, who relieved Trapp in the sixth, gave up two hits, two runs, one earned, one walk and hurled three strikeouts.

Offensive highlights for the Hilltoppers include solo homers by Rob Tomberlin and John Clem, who now have seven home runs apiece for the season. Randy Strijek smacked a double, too.

Valparaiso had home run payoffs from Eric Millholland, Kevin Spudie and Todd Kirkpatrick.

Western	001	210	1-5	6	2
Valparaiso	110	022	0-6	7	0

Trapp and Taulbee (6); Katula, Eichorn (7) and Lane (7). W-Katula, S-Lane, L-Trapp (2-2). HRs-Western, Tomberlin (7), Clem (7). Valparaiso, Millholland, Spudie, Kirkpatrick.

Tops beat No. 6 FSU

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Western had five home runs, including two from Brien Blakely, to rip No. 6 Florida State 10-6 in a college baseball game Tuesday.

Larry Shikles, 4-0, pitched a complete game and took the win while Mike Loynd, 5-2, took the loss.

Shikles gave up seven hits, had four strikeouts and one walk, while Loynd, a member of the U.S. Olympic baseball team last year, gave up eight hits, six runs, two walks and pitched two strikeouts.

The Seminoles fell to 22-7 and the Hilltoppers rose to 9-3.

The win was especially comforting to Coach Joel Murrie since the Seminoles disposed of the Hilltoppers 11-5 on Monday.

"Anytime you split with a ballclub of Florida State's caliber, at their place, then you've done an excellent job," Murrie said. "I think this was the biggest win of our program in a long while. It just shows the ability of this ballclub, and its potential."

Western scattered 15 hits and was errorless in the game, while the Seminoles were guilty of one error.

The Hilltoppers blasted five shots out of the ballpark, including back-to-back homers in the seventh from Rob Tomberlin and John Clem that tied the game, then put the Hilltoppers ahead for good.

Western's Randy Strijek led off with a walk with the Hilltoppers down 5-3. Tomberlin came to bat next, and smacked a homer to tie the game at 5-5. Clem followed with a solo homer on the very next pitch, putting the Hilltoppers up, 6-5.

Loynd was relieved then, but Western managed to get on the board four more times, including a solo homer in the ninth by Blakely.

Blakely went three for five, including three RBIs and two homers. Matt Logic went four for five, including a double, and Tomberlin had three RBIs.

Florida State's No. 6 ranking is according to ESPN and Collegiate Baseball magazine.

Western today opens a two-game series with Valparaiso at Panama City. Junior left-hander Mike Trapp (2-1) will start for the Hilltoppers. Today's and Thursday's games both begin at 12 p.m.

little differently should it have the tournament next year, but he said the changes are just a matter of fine tuning.

Although the girls' tournament is over, Diddle Arena will still be active today as Western's Lady Toppers begin play in the Division I Women's Basketball Championship.

Western is the site of both today's first round game between WKU and Middle Tennessee State and the Mideast Regional next Friday and Sunday.

Hensley said having one tournament right after another shouldn't cause any other

The major benefit to the university from the women's tournament will be from added prestige and publicity, Hensley said.

By playing host to both the girls' and women's tournaments, Western demonstrates that it is a first-class university, Hensley said.

The economic impact of the women's tournament won't be as great on the town as from the girls' tournament, but the teams coming to play here will bring fans with them, Hensley said he has heard that fans of the University of Texas already have reserved 150 hotel rooms.

Western blasts Jags

MOBILE, Ala. — Greg Bartek struck out 13 while allowing only five hits as Western trounced defending Sun Belt Conference champion South Alabama 16-1 in a league baseball game Friday night.

Saturday's game between the two teams was rained out. A double-header will be played today, with the opener starting at 1 p.m. CST.

Western pounded three South Alabama pitchers for 18 hits in Friday's game, the Sun Belt opener for both teams.

Centerfielder Gerald Ingram, second baseman Brien Blakely and shortstop Randy Strijek each cracked three hits for Western, and Ingram drove in four runs.

Western broke open a 2-0 lead in the third inning by scoring five runs off South Alabama starter Warren Hughes, then scored five more in the fourth off relievers Jay Rogers and Kevin Raley.

Hughes took the loss and fell to 2-3, while Bartek pitched a complete game and went to 4-1.

Rob Tomberlin smacked his 10th home run of the season and Western teammate Mike Roy slammed his fifth.

The victory boosted Western's record to 10-5 overall and 1-0 in the Sun Belt. South Alabama slipped to 5-7 overall and 0-1 in the league.

Western 115 SOO 022-14 16 1
South Alabama 000 010 000-1 5 2
Bartek; Hughes, Rogers (3), Raley (4). W—Bartek, 4-1. L—Hughes.
2-3. HRs—Western, Tomberlin (10), Roy (5). 2B—Western, Daniel, Ingram; South Alabama, Foss, Dull. 3B—Western, Ingram, Strijek.

3-17-85

Action!

NCAA Women's Basketball Championships

Division I • Mideast Regional
March 22 and 24

E.A. Diddle Arena Western Kentucky University

Game Times:
March 22 - 7 and 9 p.m. • March 24 - 1:30 p.m.

Ticket Prices:
\$8 - chair seats • \$6 - bleacher • \$4 - students
(ticket prices include tickets for both sessions)

3-17-85

USA nips Toppers 6-5

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — Eric Foss drew a bases-loaded walk in the bottom of the ninth to force in the winning run as South Alabama nipped Western Kentucky 6-5 in the nightcap and earned a split of a Sun Belt Conference college baseball doubleheader.

Western Kentucky won the first game 2-1 Sunday behind the pitching of Mike Spearnock, 1-1.

South Alabama took a 5-1 lead in the nightcap before a Western Kentucky rally evened the score 5-5.

Both teams stranded runners at third base in the eighth inning before South Alabama scored the

winning run.

The second game victory went to senior Warren Hughes, evening his record 3-3, while Eddie Jent, 0-1, was saddled with the loss.

In the opener, South Alabama scored a run on a Kirk White RBI single in the first inning before Western Kentucky's Matt Logic tied it with his first home run of the season in the fourth off South Alabama starter Mike Sassone.

Western Kentucky added its other run in the same inning when Juan Galan singled home Roger Daniel.

Western Kentucky drops to 11-6 on the season, while South Alabama stands at 6-8.

Haskins' contract reaffirmed

Following an evaluation of the men's basketball program, Western has reaffirmed Coach Clem Haskins' contract.

Board of Regents chairman Joe Iracane issued a statement on Tuesday saying that he would recommend to the board to honor Haskins' contract, which will be up after next season.

The former Hilltopper All-American has come under fire this year following his latest team's 14-14 record.

Tops beat UT

Western's baseball team upped its record to 12-6 with a 4-3 win over Tennessee at Denes Field on Tuesday.

Hilltoppers' pitcher Greg Bartek retired 26 straight batters after giving up three runs in the first inning to lift his record to 5-1 on the year.

Tennessee, which fell to 12-7, scored in the first when Greg Newsome hit his seventh homer of the year and David Turner, who was the next batter, hit his third home run of the season.

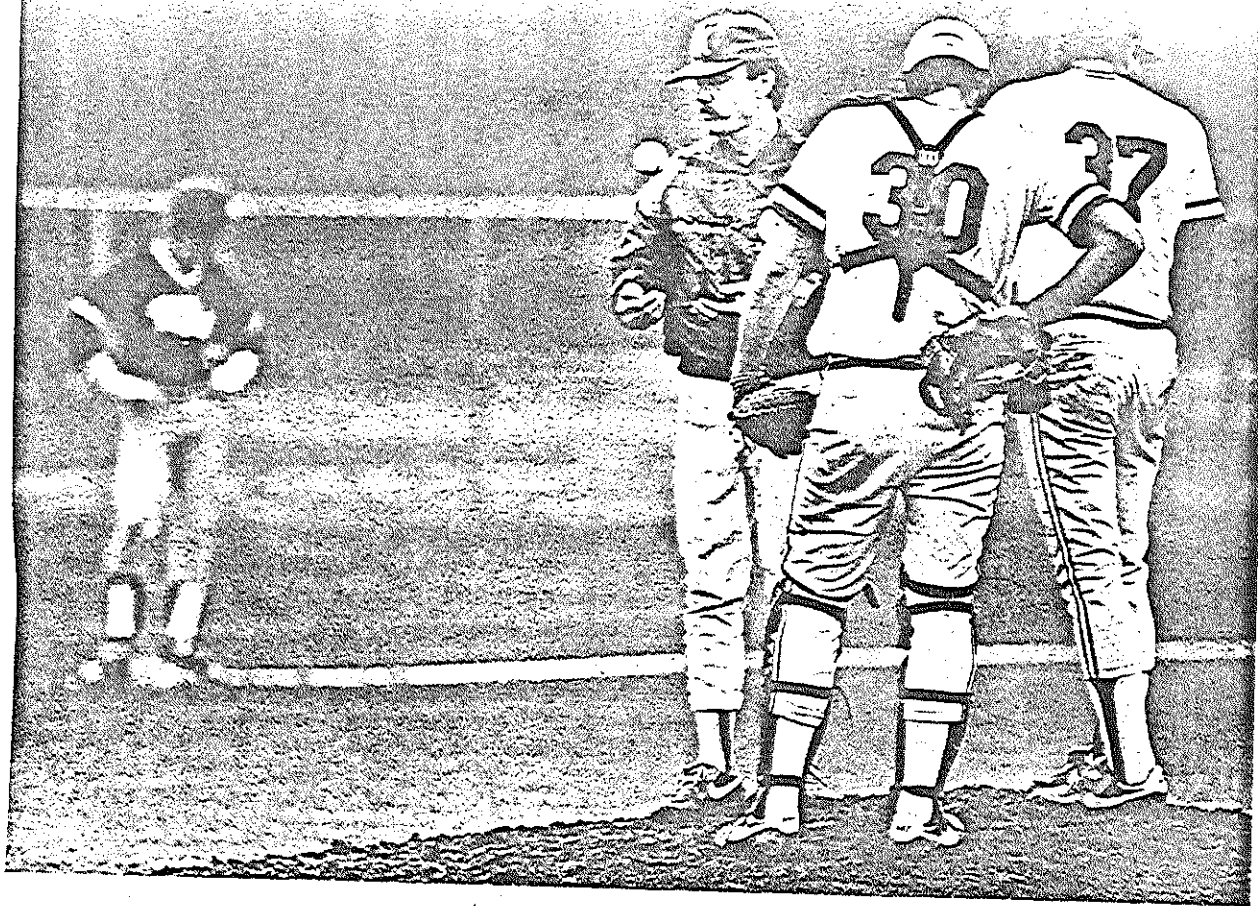
Western got nine hits off of Tennessee hurler Brad Blizzard as he fell to 2-1 on the year.

Matt Logic had the game-winning RBI for the Toppers when he hit a fielder's choice that scored Randy Strijek, who had reached on a single, and had advanced to third on singles by John Clem and Mike Roy.

The Toppers continue their homestand against Tennessee at 2:30 p.m. CST today at Denes Field.

Tennessee 300 000 000-3 3 1
Western 000 210 010-4 9 2
Blizzard and Rechenbach: Bartek and Logic. W-Bartek, 5-1.
L-Blizzard, 2-1. HRs-Tennessee, Newsome (7), Turner (3).

D. N. 3 20-85



(Staff Photo by Bobby Roe)

Waiting on a friend

JOEL MURRIE (left), Western's baseball coach, tosses a baseball in the air as he, Matt Logic (30) and Mike Spearnock wait for a relief pitcher to

come in during Western's baseball game with Vanderbilt on Thursday at Denes Field. Spearnock was being replaced in the 16-9 Vandy victory.

Vandy pounds Toppers

Continued From Page 1-B

"We kept looking for somebody that could stop them; nobody had the stuff today."

Spearnock's substitute, Mike Ballenger, went in with the bases loaded in the middle of the top of the fifth, and immediately had Vandy outfielder Jeff Graham steal home when Logic dropped a wild pitch.

The next batter Ballenger faced was designated hitter Chris Skinner, and Skinner's base hit drove in two more runners.

Murrie's substitution of Ballenger for Mike Trapp in the sixth inning didn't help the Hilltoppers to regain the needed momentum to win. A boomer down the left field line by Vandy third baseman David Joiner was good for a double, and enough to drive in one run to tie the score at 8-8.

And Trapp followed that up by allowing four more consecutive hits

including a triple with two men on by first baseman Bruce Taylor.

Murrie tried two more pitching changes during the game, but it had little effect. The Commodores continued to hit and score with regularity until the game was called for darkness at the end of the eighth inning.

"I felt like we should have won today, but didn't," Murrie said. "But I guess when you give up 16 runs you don't deserve to win."

Most of the indications going in were that the Hilltoppers should have had an easy time of it against Vandy; Western picked up a decisive victory over Tennessee on Wednesday, and the Vols took every game of a three-game series against the Commodores earlier in the season.

The Hilltoppers have a full slate scheduled for this weekend, including two games at home against Huntington College and Bowling

Green State on Saturday. Those will be followed by another game against Bowling Green on Sunday.

If Western is having a busy time of it for this part of the season, Murrie says that it's all probably for the best.

"My philosophy is that I like to play a lot of games and to do it early in the season," Murrie commented. "We as a team need to keep things in perspective; our goal is to win the conference. At the end of April we want to be ready."

"Our pitching staff is the best in the SBC West with a 3.2 ERA, and that's phenomenal... but sometimes when it rains it pours."

Vanderbilt 012 134 50x-16 17 1
Western Kentucky 430 100 10x-9 12 3
Parke, Trenning (3), Smith (8), and Hazen;
Spearnock, Ballenger (5), Trapp (6), Pearce
(7), Taulbee (7), and Logic. W-Trenning 2-0.
L-Trapp 2-2. HRs-Vanderbilt, Skinner, Cora.
Shiverick. Western Kentucky.

Toppers complete sweep of UT

3-21-55

By PERRY GASKILL,
Daily News Sports Writer

Hilltopper baseball coach Joel Murrie has some very concrete ideas about what he wants his team to do on the field.

"I think we can score eight runs in any game against anybody," Murrie says, "and the goal of our pitching staff is to keep the other teams down to five."

If that is Western's overall strategy this season, everything worked according to plan at Denes field on Wednesday when the Hilltoppers (13-6, 2-1) handed Tennessee an 11-4 trouncing that was their second victory in a two-game series.

The Hilltoppers have been consistently out-scored by opponents in the first inning this season, and Wednesday's game was no exception. Murrie had started freshman pitcher C.L. Thomas, and the Vols asked no time giving him problems.

With one out and one man on, Vols' second baseman Greg Newsome blasted out a home-run that drove in center fielder Mark Lupinus, and Tennessee was on the move.

Thomas then allowed two men to walk, and when short-stop Bobby Graylor got a base hit, it moved first baseman David Turner home.

Tennessee (12-8) scored its last run of the first inning — and the game — when Hilltopper freshman center fielder Gerald Ingram made an error that allowed Vols catcher Fred Sullivan to come in.

If Thomas — and Murrie — were worried at that point, it wasn't enough to warrant any changes. "I brought it on myself,"

Thomas said of his early troubles.

The Hilltoppers went on the scoreboard for the first time in the bottom of the first when junior third baseman Rob Tomberlin scored from third. Tomberlin is the leading hitter for Western this season with a .384 average.

Once Thomas settled into a groove, the Hilltoppers had everything go their way. In the bottom of the second, a sacrifice fly to right field by freshman Juan Galan allowed designated hitter Roger Daniel to score.

And the Hilltoppers did not allow the momentum to relax. A triple by sophomore short-stop Randy Strjek forced another run in, and Strjek himself went in a short while later when Vols pitcher Joey Seaver threw a wild ball.

Tomberlin came up again in the second inning, and hit a double that was followed by right fielder John Clem walking to the plate and blasting the ball over the fence. Clem's homer was his eighth of the season, and the only one by the Hilltoppers during the contest.

And the roll wasn't over. First baseman Mike Roy followed Clem to the plate and also picked up a double. His two-bag effort was significant, because it put him in a position to score another Western run after senior second baseman Brian Blakely hit a single.

The second inning was the end of any effective opportunity for the Vols to ever get close to going ahead again, and the Hilltoppers added insurance to their lead with two runs in the third, and one in the fourth.

Thomas (1-0) pitched five innings in the game to give him his first

win as a Hilltopper, and for a player who had a 0-5 record as a senior at McLean County High School, the win was proof that he warrants the confidence that Murrie has in him.

"C.L. settled down after the first inning," Murrie said. "He's got to learn that he has to get ready to pitch the first inning."

"He's got tremendous potential, and a 0-5 record (last year) doesn't mean that he isn't a good pitcher. It means that he just wasn't playing for a very good team."

Most of the Hilltopper players and coaches agree that the Hilltopper pitching staff is the unknown factor in how well Western will end up this season.

because they say that there is an abundance of talent when it comes time to slug the ball.

"If the pitching comes through, we got it," Thomas said. "Because we've got the hitters."

The pitchers for both teams allowed no more runs for the fifth, sixth, and seventh innings, but Western managed to put one more man across in the bottom of the eighth when a sacrifice fly to center field by Roy brought freshman short-stop Bobby Velez in from third.

Tennessee 400 000 000-4 9 5
Western/Kentucky 162 100 01X-11 14 1
Seaver, Grubb (2), Bolinger (6), and Sullivan, Thomas, Taubee (6), Jent (7), Blair (8), and Logic, W.—Thomas, 10. L.—Seaver, 1-4. HRs—Tennessee, Newsom (6), Western Kentucky—Clem (6).

At Bloomington, Ind.

Mo. 1 single — R. J. Dunkle (WVA) 1
d. Joey Carlucci 6-7, 6-4, 6-4; No. 2 — 6-1, 6-1; No. 3 — Sven Salomaa (I) d. Doug Eytlauler 6-7, 5-7, 6-4; No. 4 — Jeff Cohen (I) d. Mike Woody 6-2, 6-3; No. 5 — Frank Guengerich (I) d. Craig Gehl 6-2, 6-2; No. 6 — Kim Anderson (I) d. Bryce Korum 4-4, 6-2, 7-6.
No. 1 doubles — Dunkle-Woody 1
(WVA) d. Chris Penglou 7-5, 6-3; No. 2 — Eytlauler-Kiewiel (WVA) d. Salomaa-Anderson, def.; No. 3 — Guengerich-Greg Anderson (I) d. Jent-Dau Penile 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 3-24-55

At Bowling Green, Ky.

Huntington (Ind.) 000 100-1 5 0
Western Kentucky 715 20X-15 16 0
Catonelli, Garblon (3), and Ruts Joger, John Blair and Mike Cullen, W.—Blair (1-0), L.—Cardwell, 2B—Tom Johnson (H), David Neuenchwander (H), Rob Tomberlin (W), Brian Blake (W), John Clem (W), Mike Roy (2) (W), HR—Juan Galan (W), Mel Logic (W).

At Bowling Green, Ky.

Huntington (Ind.) 000 100-1 5 0
Western Kentucky 715 20X-15 16 0
Catonelli, Garblon (3), and Ruts Joger, John Blair and Mike Cullen, W.—Blair (1-0), L.—Cardwell, 2B—Tom Johnson (H), David Neuenchwander (H), Rob Tomberlin (W), Brian Blake (W), John Clem (W), Mike Roy (2) (W), HR—Juan Galan (W), Mel Logic (W).

Falcons watch and wait

By PERRY GASKILL

Western's baseball team came back from a disappointing loss to Vanderbilt on Thursday to pick up twin victories over Huntington College at Denes Field on Friday and Saturday, but for those who want to see some real competition this weekend, the real action may happen today.

As this edition of the Daily News goes to press, the Hilltoppers are locked in a fifth inning 1-1 struggle with Bowling Green State that will be the continuation of a game called on Saturday because of rain.

All of this is part of a busy schedule that has Western, Huntington, and Bowling Green playing six games among them in three days.

And of the three teams involved, it was the Huntington Forresters who had the worst of it. On Friday, they lost to Western 10-2. Saturday morning continued the trend with them losing to the Bowling Green Falcons 1-0, and then they made it three straight dumpings by getting pounded once again by the Hilltoppers 15-1 that afternoon in a contest that only went six innings.

"We're a small school of only about 450 kids," said Huntington coach Mike Frame after the second loss to Western. "We just stopped the game because they were so far ahead, and we were running out of pitchers."

"We didn't come down here expecting to win; we just thought it would be good for us to play."

In Friday's game, the Forresters picked up a run in the first inning, but were never ahead again. Three pitching changes helped not at all, and Hilltopper right fielder John Clem, first baseman Mike Roy, and center fielder Juan Galan all picked up home runs.

Right-handed pitcher Larry Shikles was given the win for Western in Friday's game after

having relieved another right hander, Eddie Jent, in the third inning.

Huntington came back on Saturday morning to narrowly lose to Bowling Green, and Bowling Green coach Ed Platzter had his doubts at times about pulling off a win at all.

"The pitching was certainly important," Platzer commented. "To be honest, we were very lucky to win that game."

The Forresters put up a struggle against Bowling Green, but when they faced Western later in the afternoon, things went to pieces in a hurry. Hilltopper John Bair pitched for the entire game and the left hander gave up no runs in the first three innings.

In the meantime, the Western slugging staff was not making it a day Huntington wants to remember fondly.

"Against Huntington, we swung the bats," said Western coach Joel Murrie. "We're gonna take advantage of mistakes, and they made a few."

In the bottom of the first inning, the Hilltoppers scored seven runs including a three-run homer by Galan over the left field fence when there were two outs.

They eased the pressure slightly by scoring only once in the second inning. That was when a second baseman Brien Blakely single drove in Roy, but went back on track in third inning to put together a five run scoring effort that featured a catcher Matt Logic homer to left field that drove in Roy once again.

The Forresters finally got on the board in the top of the fourth when Bair gave up a single to first baseman Russ Jones that brought in shortstop David Neuenschwander. Jones' hit made the score 13-1.

If the Hilltoppers had an easy time of it against Huntington, and Bowling Green was barely able to

pull off a narrow victory, then one would think that Western should have made things hard for the Falcons when it came time to play the final game of the day.

But that's not what happened.

Platzer put his best pitcher on the mound against Western, junior Carl Moraw, and it made a big difference. Moraw, coming into the season with a 3.24 ERA from last year, was throwing an effective slider that had the Western dugout wondering what to do.

"When he's on and consistent," Platzer said. "He's very effective."

Moraw and Hilltopper left hander Mike Trapp kept both teams scoreless until the top of the fourth inning when Trapp allowed infielder Jamie Reiser to pound out a double to left field that sent in infielder Todd Dues. Trapp was pulled and replaced by right hander Bill Vonnahme.

But Moraw stayed in even though he gave up a hit to Logic that forced in Clem.

"My slider is good," Moraw said. "But my curve is getting up there, and I've been working on my fast ball."

"I also wasn't getting behind. When they scored that run, I was letting the count go to 2-0 and it didn't help."

Moraw's fastball has been clocked at 94 mph, but it was not a decisive factor, according to Murrie.

"He (Moraw) didn't throw the fastball past any of our hitters," Murrie said. "But he's got a good breaking ball."

Friday's Game

Huntington College	100	100	000-2	7	0
Western Kentucky	300	322	00x-10	13	2

Willard, Bausch (4), Fleuckiger (8), and Martin; Jent, Shikes (3), and Logic. W - Shikes, 5-0. L - Willard, 0-1. HRS - Western Kentucky, Clem (11), Roy (7), Gahan (2).

Saturday's Game

Huntington College	000	100-1	5	1
Western Kentucky	715	20x-15	14	1

Cardwell, Garbison (3), and Jones; Bair, Ancullen. W - Bair, 1-0. L - Cardwell. HRS - Western Kentucky, Gahan (3), Logic (2).

Western takes on USF

Western's baseball team will carry a 16-8 record to Tampa, Fla., today when it takes on the BaseBulls of South Florida. The Hilltoppers will play USF in a three-game series continuing through Sunday.

The Bulls, 25-13, have a 4-2 Sun Belt Conference record after playing against Alabama-Birmingham and South Alabama. Western is 2-1 in the SBC West Division.

"This will be their first home conference series," said Western coach Joel Murrie. "I expect they'll be excited. They have a very good ballclub with a lot of speed. I would have picked them as the preseason favorite, but now I believe it will be a toss up with everyone a contender."

Sophomore catcher Scott Hemond is leading USF with a .320 batting average. Junior outfielder Allen Swabek is hitting .306 and senior outfielder Matt Manini is at .303.

Pitchers likely to start for the Bulls are Kelvin Ebanks, a lefthander with a 3-1 record and a 2.16 earned run average; righthander Mark Rose, also at 3-1 with a 3.06 ERA; and righthander Marty Valentine, at 6-0 with a 4.03 ERA.

The Hilltoppers have played only seven games since returning from spring break March 19. They swept Tennessee in a two-game series; Huntington College in two games; and Bowling Green State, while dropping two to Vanderbilt. Western was scheduled to play Ferris State Wednesday, but the game was postponed because of wet field conditions at Denes Field.

Leading the Hilltoppers offensively is senior outfielder John Clem, the league's most recent player of the week. Clem began a 13-game hitting streak against Florida State March 12 and has raised his batting average to .420.

Junior righthand pitcher Greg Bartek, who is scheduled to start against USF today, has 33 strikeouts in 39.6 innings and a 1.36 ERA. Bartek and righthander Larry Shikles both have 5-1 records. Shikles will start for the Hilltoppers Saturday and Mike Spearnock, a junior lefthander, will take to the mound Sunday. D.N. 3 27-5

Volleyball tourney set

Western's women's volleyball team will host the Big Red Volleyball Tournament this weekend at Diddle Arena's main floor.

The field is composed of 36-teams from Kentucky, Indiana and Tennessee. Play begins at 8 a.m. Saturday. Play continues Sunday at 12 p.m. Admission is free.

Western coach Charlie Daniel also has announced the signing of Dedra Nelson from Louisville Male to play collegiate volleyball as a Lady Topper. Nelson, 5-11, is expected to work her way right into the Lady Topper lineup next fall.

She is the sister of Tammi Nelson, a sophomore on the team.

Golf team heads to NC

Western's men's golf team will compete in the Iron Duke Classic in Durham, N.C. this weekend. The Hilltoppers will join 23 other teams in the field.

The competition includes such golf powerhouses as Clemson, Furman, Wake Forest, Duke, Tennessee and Michigan State.

"This will be a tough match to play in," said Western coach Jim Richards. "But I feel like we will be able to compete with several of the schools who will be down there and if we get some breaks, we could be up around the top."

"The Iron Duke has some bent grass greens,

which will be good for our players, and that makes us happy in terms of adjusting to the course."

The Hilltoppers finished last, 12th place, in the South Carolina Invitational in mid-March, but rebounded last weekend at the Eastern Kentucky Colonel Classic by finishing third out of the 20-team field.

Tracksters hit the road

Western coach Curtiss Long's men's and women's track squads will be heading to different parts of the state Saturday for the Racer Races for men and the Eastern Kentucky Invitational for women.

The first-ever Racer Races will be conducted at Murray State and Western's men should be getting used to the Racer track. Last weekend the Hilltoppers competed in the Murray State Invitational.

The 10-team field, which is expected to include Ohio Valley Conference power Middle Tennessee, should prove a challenge to the Hilltoppers.

Last week at Murray, Phillip Ryan captured the 800-meter dash in 1:52.97 and Jon Barker and Cam Hubbard tied for medalist honors in the 1,500-meter contest in 3:57.37.

Ryan, who's coming off his showing at the NCAA Indoor Championships also ran a 50.2 split in the mile relay. Both performances for Ryan were personal bests.

Western's women also tasted success at Murray last week. Kathy Moreland breezed to a four second victory in the 1,500-meter run in a personal best time of 4:44.00. And Camille Forrester took second in the 800-meter dash in 2:18.88, a personal collegiate best.

Lady Toppers to be welcomed

Western's Lady Toppers, fresh from a trip to the Women's NCAA Final Four in Austin, Texas, will be welcomed home at about 4 p.m. today on the steps of the Dero Downing Center on Western's campus.

The Lady Toppers, who fell to Georgia 91-78 in Friday's semifinals, ended their best ever season at 28-6.

Guest speakers at the reception will be Dr. John Minton, vice president of student affairs; Pam Herriford, coordinator of women's athletics; Paul Sanderford, head coach of the Lady Toppers. A few of the players probably will step to the podium to say a few words.

Dr. Donald Zacharias, Western's president, is out of town and is unable to attend the ceremonies.

The team was to leave Austin at about 11 a.m. and arrive at the Nashville Airport at about 2:30 p.m.

According to Fred Hensley, Western's public information director, there are no organized plans to receive the Lady Toppers at the airport.

"Still," Hensley said, "I imagine they'll get quite a welcome there just from friends and family." D.N.

4-1-85

Western baseballers split with USF, so far

D.N. 3-31-85

TAMPA, Fla. — The Western Kentucky baseball team (17-9, 3-2) goes into the last game of a three-game SBC West series against South Florida (28-14, 5-3) today with one win and one loss to show for its trip so far.

On Friday, the Hilltoppers came from behind in the eighth to win 6-5, but fell to the Bulls 11-6 on Saturday.

The score stayed even for most of the early portion of the first game, but in the top of the sixth, a two-run surge by Western was effectively countered when South Florida catcher Scott Hemond powered out a grand slam that kept his team ahead until almost the end.

In the top of the eighth, with catcher Matt Logic on second, Hilltopper second baseman Brien Blakely took a Jerry Comellas pitch and hit it hard enough to turn it into his fifth home run of the season and win the game.

Hilltopper pitcher C.L. Thomas was brought in for the eighth inning, and relieved by Eddie Jent in the ninth. Thomas and Jent kept the Bulls scoreless, and Jent was credited with his fourth save of the year.

Bill Vonnahme was given the win; the loss went to Comellas.

South Florida came back on Saturday, and tried to make up for

the previous day's loss by scoring early and often. Lefthander Mike Spearnock allowed the Bulls to score five times in the first inning, and the Hilltoppers were behind from then on. Hilltopper coach Joel Murrie tried four more pitching changes during the game, but Western was never able to come any closer than that early five runs.

One bright spot for the Hilltoppers was an eighth inning home run by third baseman Rob Tomberlin that makes his 14th for the season. Right fielder John Clem is currently Western's leading hitter and had a .424 average going into the game, but his one for four performance on Saturday will cause that to drop slightly. Blakely turned in the best effort of anybody at the plate during the game by going three for five.

Murrie plans to start Larry Shikels on the mound today.

Friday's game

Western Kentucky	010 002 120 — 6 10 1
South Florida	010 004 000 — 5 5 1

Bartek, Vonnahme (6), Thomas (8), Jent (9), and Logic; Ebanks, Comellas (7), and Hemond. W — Vonnahme, 2-0. L — Comellas, 2-4. HRs — Western Kentucky, Blakely (5). South Florida, Swabek, Hemond.

Saturday's game

Western Kentucky	000 104 010 — 6 13 2
South Florida	500 122 10x — 11 18 1

Spearnock, Ballenger, Taulbee, Bair, Clem, and Logic; Valentine, Wilson, and Hemond. W — Valentine, 7-0. L — Spearnock, 1-2. HRs — Western Kentucky, Tomberlin (14). South Florida, Swabek (7).



(Staff Photo by Bobby Roe)

Second year coach

DAVE ROBERTS (left), Western's head football coach, evaluates the throwing technique of one of his quarterbacks Saturday at Western's practice

field. It was the opening day of spring practice for the Hilltoppers.

Murrie files protest

D.N.
4-1-85

TAMPA, Fla. — Western's baseball team lost to host South Florida 6-5 here Sunday to wrap up the Hilltoppers' three-game series with the Bulls.

But the game may not be over yet, at least not the controversy involved.

Western coach Joel Murrie has filed a protest with the Sun Belt Conference, claiming South Florida used an ineligible player in the game.

The league office has yet to reply to Murrie's protest, which if approved, the game would be forfeited to Western.

John Crain, a catcher not listed on the Bulls' official 22-man roster, played in the ninth inning. According to league rules, only those listed on the official roster may play ball.

Rugby club wins tourney

Western's Rugby Club won its own Coors Banshee Classic rugby tournament Sunday at Creason Field with a 33-0 win over Washington University of St. Louis. The club stands at 9-0 for the spring season so far.

Western splits D-H

Western's baseball team split a double-header with Indiana State on Tuesday at Denes Field. Western won the opener 4-0, but lost the nightcap 16-6.

In the opener, Greg Bartek (6-1) earned the win and Eddie Jent earned his fifth save of the season after coming relieving Bartek in the seventh.

Paul Quienzer (2-3) took the loss. Randy Strijek smacked his second homer of the year for the Hilltoppers and Matt Logic belted his third of the season. Both were two run homers in the sixth inning, accounting for all of Western's runs.

In the nightcap, Western went through five pitchers, but none could undo the damage that winning pitcher John Gardner had inflicted in the six innings he pitched. Gardner (3-0) was relieved in the sixth by Mike Huffhand, who was relieved in the same inning by Craig Kozlowski, who earned the save.

Mike Spearnock (1-3) took the loss for Western. He was relieved by Jent in the sixth, followed by Mike Trapp, Kevin Pearce and John Clem.

Clem smacked his 12th homer of the season to highlight Western's production from the plate. Gerald Ingram also hit a double.

The Hilltoppers (18-10) are at Austin Peay today.

First Game
Indiana State 000 000 0-0 6 2
Western 000 004 0-4 4 0
Quienzer; Bartek and Jent. W-Bartek, 6-1. S-Jent (5). L-Quienzer, 2-3. HRs-Western, Strijek (2), Logic (3).

Second Game
Indiana State 130 005 7-16 16 1
Western 200 004 0-6 9 5
Gardner, Huffhand and Kozlowski; Spearnock, Jent, Trapp, Pearce, Clem. W-Gardner, 3-0. S-Kozlowski. L-Spearnock, 1-3. HRs--Indiana State, Rodrigues (9), Ghelfi. Western, Clem (12).

Baseball

At Clarksville, Tenn.

Western Kentucky 100 110 002-5 10 1

Austin Peay 001 000 002-3 5 4

Larry Shikies, Eddie Jent (9) and

Matt Logic, Stacy Sims, Robbie Beck-

man (9) and Bobby Allen. W-Shikies-

Tops beat APSU 5-3

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. — Western went to 19-11 on the season with a 5-3 victory over former Ohio Valley Conference rival Austin Peay here Wednesday.

Larry Shikles (6-1) picked up the win for Western, going eight and two-thirds innings before giving way to Eddie Jent, who picked up his sixth save of the season.

Stacy Simons took the loss for Austin Peay (3-16-1).

Mike Roy hit his eighth home run of the season off of the first pitch in the fourth inning. Roy had two RBIs in the game.

Randy Strijek went two for five, getting an RBI, scoring a run and stealing a base. Brien Blakely had two hits for Western.

Corky Owen went two for four with two RBIs to lead Austin Peay. Owen hit his sixth home run of the season in the bottom of the ninth inning.

Western will face another former OVC foe, Middle Tennessee, today at Denes Field at 2 p.m. CST.

Western 100 110 002—5 11 1
Austin Peay 001 000 002—3 5 4
Shikles, Jent; Sims, Beckman, W—Shikles, 6-1. S—Jent (6). L—Sims 1-1. HRs—Western, Roy (8). APSU—Owen (6).

At Bowling Green
Middle Tennessee . 001 000 050—6 9 2
Western Kentucky . 100 000 042—7 6 1
Steve Sonnenberger and Kim Gott;
C.L. Thomas, Mike Ballenger (6), Mike
Spearneck (7), Eddie Jent (8), Doug
Taulbee (8) and Matt Logic. W—Taul-
bee (1-1). L—Sonnenberger (5-2). 2B—
Rob Tomberlin (W). Dwight Thomas
(M). Chip Carnes (M). 3B—John
Clem (W). Randy Strijek (W). Thomas
(M). HR—Roger Daniel (W). Team
records: Middle Tennessee 18-15, West-
ern Kentucky 20-11. 4-5 15

Baseball

At Bowling Green, Ky.
Cumberland . 430 013 020—13 17 0
W. Kentucky . 010 103 000—5 14 2
Terry Crnkovich and John Shouse.
C.L. Thomas, Mike Trapp (2), Mike
Spearneck (6), Doug Taulbee (8) and
Matt Logic. W—Crnkovich (4-1). L—
Thomas (1-1). 2B—Joe Ballman (C).
Rob Tomberlin (W). John Clem (W). 2.
HR—Joe Modica (C) 2, Matt Logic
(W) 2, Mike Roy (W), John Clem (W).

At Bowling Green, Ky.
Ala.-Birmingham . 000 000 000—0 6 4
Western Kentucky 111 004 10x—8 11 0
Richie Brooks, Al Lockhart (6), Rob-
in Herd (6), Todd Langford (8), Bobby
Jones, Larry Shikles and Matt Logic.
W—Shikles (7-1). L—Brooks (2-3). 2B
—Bobby Jones (UAB), Mike Roy (W).
3B—Randy Strijek (W), Rob Tomber-
lin (W).

At Bowling Green, Ky.
Ala.-Birmingham . 000 030 3—6 7 0
Western Kentucky . 230 000 2—7 8 0
Jimmy Moek, Todd Langford (1),
Derek Caraway (3) and Bobby Jones.
Steve Schmidt (7), Greg Bartek, Eddie
Jent (7), Bill Vonnahme (7) and Matt
Logic. W—Vonnahme (3-0). L—Car-
away (0-1). 2B—Jones (A), Juan Galan
(W). HR—Jones (A), Jonny Morgan
(A), Chris Shelton (A), Mike Roy (W),
Rob Tomberlin (W).

Ala.-Birmingham . 001 001 1—2 10 1
Western Kentucky 043 000 x—7 9 1
Lloyd Ethridge, Robin Herd (3) and
Jones. Mike Spearneck, Mike Bal-
lenger (3) and Doug Taulbee (6) and
Logic. W—Ballenger (1-0). L—Eth-
ridge (2-2). 2B—Ralph Sanchez (A).
Roger Daniel 2 (W). HR—John Clem
(W), Brien Blakely (W). 4 7-5

Western edges MTSU 7-6

Western's baseball team will host Alabama-Birmingham for its first Sun Belt Conference home series of the season this weekend.

The Hilltoppers and the Blazers will take to the field at 12 p.m. CST Saturday at Denes Field for a double-header and at 1 p.m. Sunday for a single game. All three contests will be broadcast over WDNS-FM.

Western is scheduled to play St. Mary's of Minnesota at 1 p.m. today in a double-header at Denes Field if the forecasted rain holds off.

The Hilltoppers downed visiting Middle Tennessee 7-6 Thursday. Western went through a battery of five pitchers before edging the Raiders, handing Steve Sonneberger (5-2) the loss.

Doug Taulbee, who was the Hilltoppers' last reliever to take the mound, earned the win and stands at 1-1. C.L. Thomas started for Western, followed by Mike Ballenger in the sixth; Mike Spearnock in the seventh; and

Eddie Jent and Taulbee in the eighth.

Western was led offensively by Roger Daniel's first home run of the season; John Clem's and Randy Strijek's triples; and Rob Tomberlin's double.

Dwight Thomas led the Raiders (18-15) from the plate, hitting a double and a triple.

UAB won two of three games against South Alabama last weekend to bring its conference record to 2-4 coming into Saturday's twin bill. The Hilltoppers are 3-3 in the league's West Division and 20-11 overall.

"This is the halfway point in the season and I hope we can continue our consistent pace in the conference," said Western coach Joel Murrie. "Last year we swept UAB

at home, but we'll just try to take each game one at a time."

Leading the Blazers at the plate is senior centerfielder Ralph Sanchez, who is hitting .427. Junior Tommy Urban, an All-SBC selection last season, is also an offensive threat, Murrie said.

However, Western has a strong offensive threat in junior third baseman Rob Tomberlin and senior rightfielder John Clem. Tomberlin is hitting .395 with 14 homers and 33 RBIs, and Clem is hitting .384 with 12 homers and 27 RBIs.

No decision has been made for the Blazers' starting pitching rotation this weekend, but junior transfer Todd Hatfield and Jimmy Meek, who went 10-3 last year, will

probably draw two of the three starts. Hatfield is 3-0 on the year with a team-leading 3.04 ERA.

Murrie will most likely stick with his top three starters. Junior Greg Bartek (6-1) is leading the team as well as the league in ERA with 1.90 through 52 innings. The righthander also has 46 strikeouts.

Senior Larry Shikles (6-1) is close behind with a 3.35 ERA and 39 strikeouts in 51 innings. And Mike Spearnock (1-2), who had been struggling earlier in the season only to come on strong the last couple weeks, will get the other start, Murrie said.

"Mike is coming along," Murrie said. "He was struggling for a while, but I'd rather have him struggle early than late, when we really need him. The last couple games he has pitched, he has really shown why so many people think he is the best pitcher in the league."

The Hilltoppers will remain at home for seven more games after this weekend, including the second league confrontation with South Alabama April 12-14.

Middle Tennessee 001 000 050-6 9 2
Western Kentucky 100 000 042-7 6 1
Sonneberger, Thomas, Ballenger, Spearnock,
Jent and Taulbee. W-Taulbee, 1-1. L--
Sonneberger, 5-2. HRs--Western Kentucky,
Daniel (1).

St. Mary's bells rung by WKU baseballers

4-7-85
By PERRY GASKILL
Daily News Sports Writer

The Western Kentucky baseball team picked up two wins for the price of one Friday — and didn't even have to play the second half of a rained out double-header.

In the third inning of a game against visiting St. Mary's College of Minnesota, a game the Hilltoppers later won 4-1, Western found out that Sun Belt Conference Commissioner Vic Bubas had ruled in its favor in a contested game played March 31 at South Florida.

That decision put the Hilltoppers (22-10, 4-2) in first place in the league's West Division going into Saturday's double-header against league foe Alabama-Birmingham.

In the meantime, Western was having no trouble putting down the Cardinals despite a lack of substantial power hitting on either side. Some of the Hilltopper games this season have ended with scores that would seem more like the kind found at the end of a football game, and Western coach Joel Murrie has said all season that his hitters are usually good for at least eight runs against practically anybody.

"We're kind of in a mid-season hitting slump right now," Murrie said. "But that's natural; it happens even in the big leagues. There are times when runs are just tough to get."

Western started the game on an upbeat, though. In the first inning, freshman southpaw John Bair (2-0) retired the first three Cardinal batters to the plate, and the Hilltopper hitting game shifted into gear against senior left-hander Pat Opatz (1-3).

Shortstop Randy Strijek was the first Hilltopper to face Opatz, and his single was followed by a Rob

Tomberlin triple. Tomberlin, Western's third baseman, came in when catcher Matt Logic put out a sacrifice bunt, and another sacrifice grounder by second baseman Brien Blakely allowed right fielder John Clem to score.

The Cardinals came back in the top of the second to put their only run of the day on the board when designated hitter Dave Anderson's double drove in right fielder Todd Borndale.

Western scored for the last time when another bunt in the bottom of the sixth inning by first baseman Mike Roy sent in left fielder Juan Galan.

There were no home runs scored by either side, a strong wind blowing in from the outfield had a lot to do with that, but Western bunted at least six times.

"It shows how versatile we are," Murrie said. "We have 50 home runs this season, but can still bunt when we need to. It's called using the whole ballpark."

St. Mary's (2-9), an NCAA Division III school with only about 1,200 students, was in the middle of a yearly 10-day trip through the South. According to coach George Drouches, the Cardinals have taken on the likes of Western, Vanderbilt, and Memphis State because it is all good experience for when they return to compete in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Conference.

"I think that we have a good team in that we can compete with

the bigger schools and do fairly well," Drouches said. "The scores have been an indicator of that. If we wanted to be 20-0 we could schedule games with some rinky dink colleges but we wouldn't be able to learn anything that way."

"I think we have a good pitching staff, and if there's anything we're weak on, it's probably overall team speed. I also thought we executed well defensively in that we didn't allow WKU to score a couple of times when they could have."

"I thought they (the Cardinals) played an excellent game," Murrie said. "And I wasn't surprised; they have a good reputation."

Murrie also wasn't surprised by the decision Bubas made about the contested game with South Florida. The protest had been filed in the final game of a three-game series when relief catcher John Crane came in from the South Florida bench to replace Scott Hemond. Coach Robin Roberts had made Hemond a designated hitter, and hadn't put Crane on the official team roster. According to NCAA rules, each team is allowed to have 22 players on the roster, and the South Florida roster was already full.

"The decision in Florida was black and white," Murrie said. "It was specific."

St. Mary's 010 000 0-1 5 0
Western Kentucky 300 001 x-4 13 0
Opatz, Wasik (6), and Tschida; Bair, and
Logic. W—Bair, 2-0. L—Opatz, 1-3.

Hilltoppers sweep UAB in twin bill

4-7-55

By PERRY GASKILL,
Daily News Sports Writer

Western Kentucky look both parts of a double-header against Sun Belt Conference foe Alabama at Birmingham by dropping the Blazers 7-7 in the first game and following that up with a 7-2 victory later Saturday afternoon at Dennes Field.

The two teams meet again at 1 p.m. today for a single game.

"I think it was a typical day of what could happen on a windy day at our ballpark," said Western coach Joel Murrie. "When it's windy, you've got to throw down, and the pitchers that were successful today did that."

The twin wins give the Hilltoppers (24-10, 6-2) an insurance cushion in the SBC West by putting them out in front of second place South Alabama and South Florida.

In the first game, the Hilltoppers rolled out in front early by putting on a two-run scoring effort in the bottom of the first inning that was only a warm-up for a Mike Roy three-run homer over the 370 foot-mark of left-center field fence in the bottom of the second.

If Blazer starting pitcher Derek Caraway had a hard time at the start, it wasn't quite bad enough for him to be relieved.

"The guy pitched a good game and then had it blow up on him," said UAB coach Harry "the flat" Walker. "We had a lot of opportunities, but it just didn't happen."

up a walk and was pulled after designated runner Richard Williamson scored when Rob Tomberlin bobbled a hard grounder to third.

Bill Vomahme replaced Jent with the score tied, and when outfielder Bryan Cain popped a high bounce off the mound with the bases loaded to second baseman Juan Galan that should have been a double play but wasn't, UAB went ahead for the first time when outfielder Chris Hammond scored from third.

But the Hilltoppers managed to put things back on the right track at the last minute when pounded a chest-high fastball that rocketed out of left field with one man on.

"We had the lead in the beginning but just lost it," Tomberlin said of his 15th home run of the season. "They made a couple of good plays. He balked on his first pitch and got behind on the count and needed to pick it up. It came across better high, and I just tried to hit it the best I could."

Both teams remained scoreless in the first inning of the second game, but in the bottom of the second, when Hilltoppers went for four runs when first baseman Roger Daniel hit a liner into right-center that drove in three runs, and Galan later scored from third on a wild pitch.

And that proved to be the beginning of the end for the Blazers, because the momentum had shifted to Western, and the Hilltoppers watched John Clem blast out a homer on the first pitch in the bottom of the third, and had it followed by a Brien Blakely homer with one man on just a short while later.

UAB remained scoreless until the top of the fifth inning when Blazer center fielder Bobby Jones took a fast ball on a 3-2 count and sent it in a high loft over the left field fence. Third baseman Todd Neil then walked, and shortstop Jonny Morgan blasted the ball out close to where Jones' had eventually landed.

Things slayed fairly calm until the top of the seventh inning. Hilltopper right-hander Greg Bartek got into trouble by giving up another left field homer to outfielder Chris Shelton on the first pitch of the last inning, and then allowed a double by Jones immediately after that.

Bartek was replaced by another right-hander, senior Eddie Jent, but the Blazers were on a roll that Jent was unable to stop. He lasted through only two batters by giving

The Blazers had already scored one run in the top of the third and managed one more each in the sixth and the seventh, but it was a belated effort.

"They did to the ball what they had to do to it," Walker said. "You can't get behind by five or six runs and expect to catch up."

"We haven't been playing good tough ball when we've had to. Our pitching has been very shaky; so's our fielding, but it's getting better."

Mike Spearnock relieved Mike Ballenger on the mound in the sixth inning, and although Ballenger was given the win after having come in to throw in the third, it was Paulbee who finally finished the day.

"They were a good hitting ball club," Paulbee said. "I thought they were one of the best that we've played this season. I threw a lot of change ups and curves because they like to hit the fastball."

Alabama-Birmingham	000 000 2-6 7 0
Western Kentucky	220 000 2-7 6 0
Caraway (2) and Jones; Bartek, Jent (7), Vomahme (2), and Logic W - Vomahme 3.0, L - Caraway 0-1, HRs - Alabama 3.0, Birmingham, Shelton (4), Jones (5), and Morgan Western Kentucky, Roy (9), and Tomberlin (15).	
Second Game	
Alabama-Birmingham	001 001 1-2 10 1
Western Kentucky	043 000 X-7 9 1
Eltridge, Herd (3), and Jones; Spearnock, Ballenger (3), Paulbee (6), and Logic W - Ballenger 1-0, L - Eltridge 2-2, HRs - Western Kentucky, Clem (13), and Blakely (6).	

Avid Topper fan tosses first pitch

4-7-85

By THOMAS T. ROSS
Daily News Sports Editor

Clad in what else but Western red, Mike Reynolds threw out the first pitch Saturday to officially mark the opening day of Sun Belt Conference play this baseball season at Denes Field.

The Hilltoppers, the league's West Division leader, opened league play at home in a double-header against Alabama-Birmingham.

Reynolds, a Bowling Green attorney, is a little leaguer wrapped inside a 37-year-old body when it comes to baseball, or any other sport, especially when it involves the Hilltoppers.

But who is this Reynolds guy, who gets to toss the first pitch in a ceremony usually reserved for university presidents, athletic directors, former greats of the game, etc?

In his own words, Reynolds says, gee, "I'm just a Topper fan, that's all I can say."

He's quite a Western fan because what earns him the right to throw that first pitch, and he has done so the last three seasons, is he pays for it.

The Hilltopper Hundred Club, in its annual fund-raising auction to benefit all of Western's athletics, auctions off the right to throw the first pitch at the first home league game of the season.

The first two years, Reynolds recalled, he paid about \$50 each season to toss the hide. This year, he said, another fan kept the bidding alive until about the \$150 mark, and on the third and final rap of the auctioneer's gavel, the right, or pleasure to hurl the ball again went to Reynolds.

"The money goes right into the program," Reynolds said, "and that's all I care about. I like helping the program out and at the same time, it's fun, the auction, the first pitch, I enjoy all of it."

Reynolds' athletic roots at Western go all the way back to when he was a child growing up in Bowling Green. The days of E.A. Diddle and the Red Barn, where his

his first year of college, before realizing there is sometimes a marked difference between being a star in high school and having enough talent to make it in college ball.

And the time came when he had to make a choice between being one of the boys of summer or concentrate on his pre-law studies. The studies won.

"It was pretty evident I wasn't good enough to play at the college level," Reynolds said with a laugh while watching the Hilltoppers and UAB warm up. "I was OK in high school, but I wasn't too good here."

The southpaw looked pretty good on the Hilltopper mound Saturday, though.

Topper Hotline provides updates

The Hilltopper Hotline (745-4620), produced by Western's sports information office, will provide pre-recorded updates Wednesday of both the men's and women's basketball signees who intend to play at Western. Wednesday is the NCAA nationally signing date for high school prospects announcing what college they will attend.

D.N. 4-8-83

Cumberland tops Western 13-5

Cumberland (Tenn.) jumped on top of Western in the first two innings and didn't let up as the Bulldogs cruised to a 13-5 victory Monday afternoon at Denes Field.

Terry Crnkovich went the distance for Cumberland as he upped his record to 4-1. C.L. Thomas took the loss for the Hilltoppers. He is 1-1 on the year.

Matt Logic hit two home runs for the Toppers, with John Clem and Mike Roy adding a homer each. Clem also had a pair of doubles in the game. Clem has 14 home runs this season and Roy has 10.

Rob Tomberlin added another double for Western, which fell to 25-11 on the year.

Joe Modica smacked two homers for Cumberland and Joe Ballman added a double.

Western takes a day off before returning to action Wednesday with a double-header against Samford at Denes Field. The first game begins at 1 p.m.

Cumberland 430 013 020-13 17 0
Western 010 103 000-5 14 2
Crnkovich and Shouse; Thomas, Trapp (2). Spearnock (6). Taulbee (8); Logic. W-Crnkovich (4-1). L-Thomas (1-1). HRs-Cumberland, Modica 2. Western, Logic 2 (5), Clem (14), Roy (10).

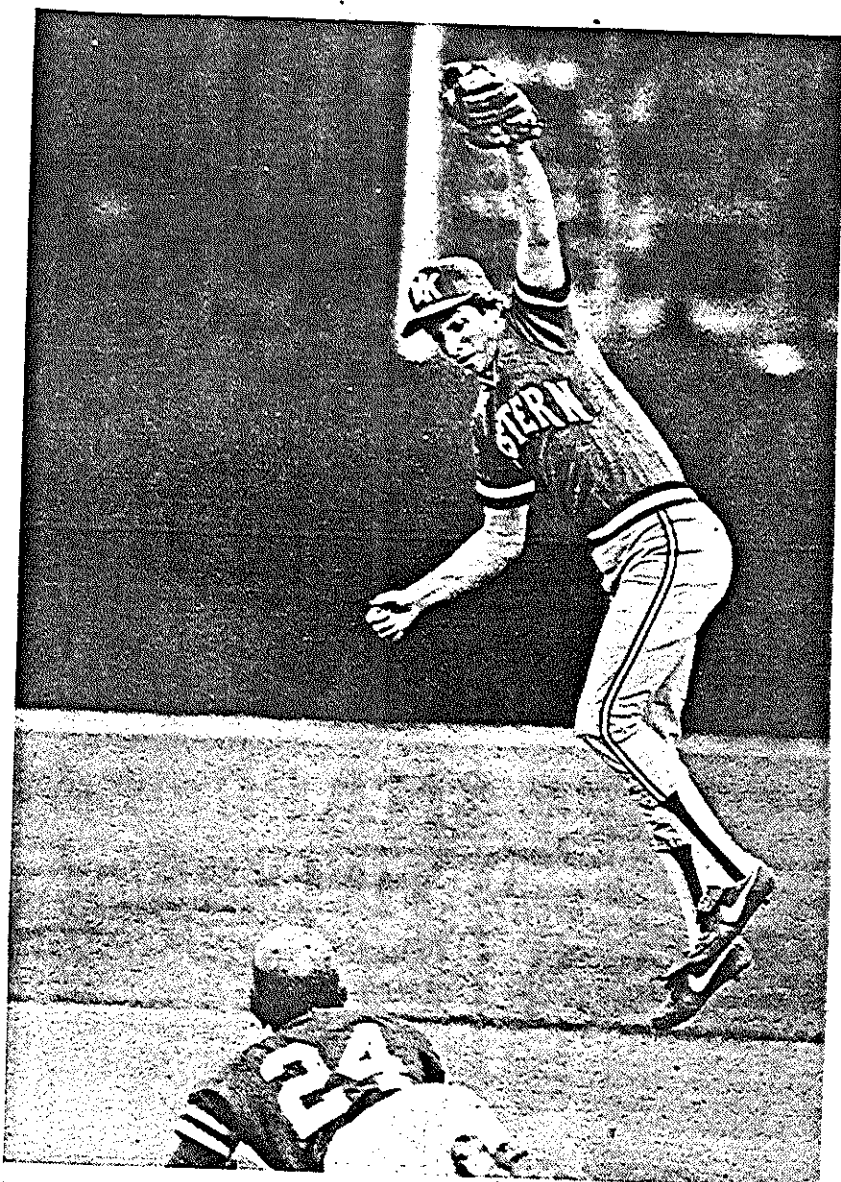
D.N. 4-9-83

Rugby club beats Canadian team

LEXINGTON, Ky. — The Western Rugby Club defeated Forest Rugby Club of Ontario, Canada 18-4 here last weekend to boost its record to a spotless 10-0 mark.

Both Scott Neff and Tim Asher scored a try apiece and Dan Kaufman completed the conversions to highlight Western's offense.

The club hosts the University of Kentucky at 1 p.m. Saturday at the football practice field.



(Staff Photo by Bobby Roe)

On the fly

RANDY STRIJEK (right), Western's shortstop, jumps to catch the ball Thursday at Denes Field as Bellarmine's Jeff Wissman (24) slides into second base. Western slipped by Bellarmine 5-4.

Western sweeps twin bill

Western swept a twin bill Wednesday over Samford at Denes Field, winning the opener 5-2 and the nightcap 9-1.

Western stands at 27-11 going into today's 2:30 p.m. homestanding contest against Bellarmine.

Samford, which is located in Birmingham, Ala., fell to 17-27.

In the opener, Mike Trapp (3-2) earned the win. Mike Roy, Gerald Ingram and Randy Strijek each had a double for Western. Strijek also belted a home run, as did Samford's Gary Cooper.

In the nightcap, C.L. Thomas (2-1) pitched the win for the Hilltoppers. John Clem smacked a double and teammate Rob Tomberlin had a home run shot for the Hilltoppers to highlight a 12-hit game.

First Game		000 011 0-2 3 1
Samford		013 100 x-5 7 1
Western		
Joey Sims and Ty Payne. Mike Trapp, Bill Vonnahme (6) and Matt Logic. W—Trapp (3-2). L—Sims (8-5). 2B—Western, Mike Roy, Gerald Ingram, Randy Strijek. HR—Western, Strijek, Samford, Cooper.		
Second Game		000 010 0-1 5 2
Samford		001 134 x-9 12 2
Western		
John Baker, Rex Tucker (2) and Howard Wood. C.L. Thomas, Mike Ballenger (6), Eddie Jent (7) and Logic, Mike Cullen (7). W—Thomas (2-1). L—Tucker. 2B—Western, John Clem. Samford, Howard Wood. HR—Western, Rob Tomberlin.		

WKU netters win

Western's men's tennis team defeated visiting Austin Peay 7-2 at the WKU courts Wednesday.

Here are the results:

No. 1 singles — Scott Underwood (W) def. Henrik Petersson 3-6, 6-4, 6-2. No. 2 — Matt Fones (W) def. Ritchie Lanys 6-0, 1-0. No. 3 — Myles Van Urk (A) def. Billy Jeff Burton 6-4, 6-4. No. 4 — Yatin Shelar (A) def. Roland Lutz 4-6, 6-4, 6-2. No. 5 — Matt Peterson (W) def. Randy Holden 6-3, 6-2. No. 6 — Jonathan Yeagle (W) def. Kirk Lancaster 6-3, 7-6.

No. 1 doubles — Underwood-Lutz (W) won by default. No. 2 — Burton-Peterson (W) def. Holden-Lancaster 6-0, 6-0. No. 3 — Fones-Yeagle (W) def. Van Urk-Shelar 3-4, retired.

D.N. 4-11-85

Errors cost WKU game

against USA

4-15-85

By THOMAS T. ROSS
Daily News Sports Editor

Western's baseball team continued its mastery from the plate Sunday, scattering 15 hits against Sun Belt Conference foe South Alabama, but six Hilltopper errors dampened the offensive output enough to allow the Jaguars to win 13-10.

About 200 fans at a cloud-covered Denes Field saw the division-leading Hilltoppers fall to 30-12 overall and 9-3 in the league's West Division, while the Jags, the two-time defending SBC champions, went to 16-18 and 4-6.

Reliever Mark Kangas (3-1) earned the win and starter Mike Spearnock, still struggling to find the heat, he harnessed as an All-SBC pitcher the last two years, took the loss and fell to 1-4.

"We didn't deserve to win this one," said Joel Murrle, in his sixth year as the Hilltoppers' head coach.

"We beat ourselves, we're a better ballclub than they are. It just goes to show when you make mistakes, they will be taken advantage of. Anytime you make six errors you don't deserve to win."

Western went 2-1 in the three-game series, beating the Jags 10-3 Friday and 15-9 Saturday before succumbing to sloppy field play Sunday.

Bobby Velez, in Western's starting lineup for injured second baseman Brien Blakely, suffered through three errors at his post, while teammates Mike Roy, Juan Galan and Matt Logic each had one.

USA, meanwhile, played the nine-inning game with only one error, that by third baseman Danny Griffin.

The lopsided numbers in the error slots was the difference in the

"We played almost error free ball, and that was the credible thing for us," Kittrell said. "Our defense played well behind our pitching and, you almost have to play errorless ball against the Hilltoppers simply because they're so good."

The Jags jumped out to a 4-0 lead in quick fashion, scoring three runs in the first and another in the second. The Jags went scoreless in the third, as did Western, which had the fans sitting on the edge of their seats then.

In the two previous games, it was in the third inning that Western blasted USA to take command of the game. The fans were hoping this game would be three's a charm, but it never came.

It did, however, come an inning later. The Hilltoppers scored four runs to tie the game 4-4.

Their first run by Roy was set up by a Velez-Logic hit and run. Logic was at first after hitting a single and Roy, who had walked, advance to third on the base hit. Velez knocked wood at the plate next, and Logic left for the steal as the freshman from Carrollina, Puerto Rico connected to right center, bringing Roy home.

Gerald Ingram punched the ball down the third base line next, handing Griffin his error, for a double, moving Velez to third and scoring Logic.

With the tying runs on second and third, Galan walked to load the bases.

Randy Strjek, who is batting .349 for Western and is an easy All-SBC pick at shortstop this year, hit a chopper over Griffin's head at third into left field for a two RBI single,

bringing home Velez and Ingram. Galan tried to make it to third, but was tagged out after the runs had scored to retire the side.

Western scored two more runs in the bottom of the fifth to go up 6-4, and it looked as if a clean sweep was about to be pushed the Hilltoppers' way.

But Western's runs — by John Clem and Rob Tomberlin — were quickly tempered by a six-run inning by the Jags in the top of the sixth to take a 10-6 lead.

Catcher Mike Theige scored to bring the Jags within one, then Spearnock found himself in deeper trouble by loading the bases. Richie Hermann stood on first, Doug Perry on second and Nolan Van Graham was on third when Robert Franklin came to the plate.

Murrle pulled Spearnock before the first pitch was thrown to Franklin, and brought in Greg Bartek, normally a starter, for his second relief appearance of the season.

Franklin hit an RBI single past Tomberlin at third into left field to score Graham. Perry moved to third, Hermann to second and Franklin stood at first.

Mike Dull, after Bartek struck out Brian Simmermacher, hit an RBI single to left field to score Hermann. But Galan had a fielding error on the hit to permit Dull to make it to third and Franklin to score.

Dull scored next when Logic lost a wild Bartek pitch to batter Griffin, who then grounded out to Strjek to retire the side.

The Jags scored two more runs in the seventh by Van Graham and Perry to give USA a 12-6 lead. C.L. Thomas relieved Bartek early in the inning, but Bill Vonnahme took over shortly after Thomas got into trouble by loading the bases.

Western scored a run in the seventh off a Logic home run, his seventh of the season, over the left centerfield fence to make it 12-7 USA. Logic had three hits on the day.

Clem hit a two RBI triple in the bottom of the eighth, bringing home Tomberlin and Galan, after USA went scoreless in the top to make it 12-10 going into the ninth.

Another error by Velez set up USA's last run, scored by designated hitter Jeff Kahn. He scored on a Perry RBI single. Vonnahme struck out the last three batters to retire the side.

Western went out 1, 2, 3 in the bottom of the ninth with Velez striking out, Daniel grounding out, and Ingram hitting a pop out to pitcher Mike Sassone, who relieved Kangas in the eighth and earned his third save of the year.

South Alabama 210 004 201—13 12 1
Western Kentucky 000 420 130—10 15 6
Hughes, Kangas (5), Sassone (6) and Theige.
Spearneck, Bartek (6), Thomas (7), Vonnahme (7) and Logic. W—Kangas, 3-1, 5—Sassone (3), L—Spearneck, 1-4, 28—South Alabama, Simmermacher, Kahn, Western, Logic, Roy, 38—Western, Clem, HR—Western, Logic (7).
Records—South Alabama (16-18, 4-6), Western (30-12, 9-3), A—200.

Western ranked No. 24

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — Western's baseball team, ranked 24th in the nation according to this week's Baseball America magazine, beat Middle Tennessee 8-4 here Tuesday in collegiate baseball action.

Mike Ballenger, who relieved starter Bill Vonnahme in the fifth inning, earned his second win of the season against no losses. Mike Trapp, who relieved Ballenger in the seventh, earned his first save.

Starter Craig Smith (1-3) took the loss after being relieved in the eighth by Greg Johnson, who in turn was relieved by Garl Fugitt in the ninth.

Western's Mike Roy hit two home runs to bring his season total to 14, and Gerald Ingram hit his second homer of the season. Bob Tribbey led MTSU (21-21) with a double.

Western, which stands at 31-12 overall, hosts Cumberland (Tenn.) at 2:30 p.m. Thursday for a single game.

The Hilltoppers are 9-3 in the Sun Belt Conference West Division, while No. 18 Old Dominion is leading the East Division with a 32-8 and 9-3 record. The SBC championship will be played May 12-14 at the site of the East Division champion.

Western Kentucky
Middle Tennessee

103 012 010—8 9 1
101 110 000—4 11 6

Bill Vonnahme, Mike Ballenger (5), Mike Trapp (7) and Matt Logic. Craig Smith, Greg Johnson (8), Garl Fugitt (9) and Tim Goff. W—Ballenger, 2-0. S—Trapp (1). L—Smith, 1-3. 2B—Middle Tennessee, Tribbey. HR—Western, Roy 2 (14), Ingram (2). Records—Western 31-12, Middle Tennessee 21-21.

D.N. 4-17-85

Hilltoppers lose Sanders

MURRAY, Ky. (AP) — Glenn Sanders, a 6-foot-1 point guard from Jefferson Community College in Hillsborough, Mo., signed a national letter-of-intent Tuesday to finish his college basketball career at Murray State. He was also being recruited by Western.

Sanders averaged 16 points, five assists and five steals per game at Jefferson.

In addition to Western, which has yet to sign a recruit during the spring signing period, Sanders was being recruited by Nebraska and Missouri.

"Glenn is the key to the future chemistry of our team," said Murray Coach Steve Newton. "He has outstanding athletic ability and the leadership you look for in a guard."

Sanders is the fifth Racer signee this season.

Ruggers blister UK

Western's Rugby Club trounced visiting University of Kentucky 30-0 Saturday, behind tries by Shane Smith, George Moore, Larry Pund and Dan Kaufman. Smith and Moore had two each and Pund and Kaufman, who also had three conversions, had one each. Western had a 16-0 halftime lead.

Western stands undefeated, 11-0, going into Saturday's 1 p.m. match with visiting Huntsville (Ala.) Rugby Club.

D.A. 4-16-85

Western netters win

Both Western's men's and women's tennis teams finished up their respective regular season play with wins Tuesday. The men, playing at Kereiakes Park, defeated Louisville 7-2. The women, playing at the WKU courts, defeated Austin Peay 6-3.

Matt Fones, Brad Hanks, B.J. Burton and Matt Peterson were winners in single action for Western's men. In doubles action, all three Hilltopper teams won.

Gayle Sutton, Lee Anne Murray, Denise Schmidt and Julie Ross were all winners in single action for Western's women. The No. 2 and 3 Lady Topper doubles teams won.

The men stand at 13-13 and the women finished at 6-1 going into this weekend's Sun Belt Conference championships in Mobile, Ala.

Trout signs with WKU 4-17-85

Jim Trout of Fort Wayne Ind., has signed with Western's swim team.

The Snider High School standout was a member of the 1985 Indiana Swimming All-Star team, and he was a three-time qualifier for the U.S.S. junior nationals.

Trout is an honor student who plans to major in business or communications.

Baseball

At Birmingham, Ala. 4-18-85

W. Kentucky 000 020 400-8 8 2
 Samford 130 000 100-5 5 1
 John Bair, Doug Taulbee (5), Eddie Jent (9) and Mike Cullen. John Baker, Dale Burnett (7), Carl Schlotter (7) and Ty Payne. W - Taulbee (2-1). L - Burnett (2-4). 2B - Robbie Parker (5), Mike Roy (W). HR - David Phillips (5), Ty Payne (5), Juan Galon (W), John Clem (W). Records: Western Kentucky 35-13, Samford 19-34.

Logic honored by SBC

Senior catcher Matt Logic of Western's baseball team and junior third baseman Barry Shifflett of UNC Charlotte were selected as Sun Belt Conference co-players of the week for the period ending April 14.

Logic, who hails from Racine, Wis., batted .577 in seven games with four homers, 15 hits and eight RBI. Logic also scored 10 times during the week.

Shifflett, a native of Earlsville, Va., went eight for 15 at the plate in six games, scoring 10 runs while driving in six and hitting .533. Among the left-handers eight hits were a double and two home runs.

• • •

The East Division pennant, and the right to host the 1985 SBC Baseball Tournament, will be decided this weekend when first-place Old Dominion travels to second-place Jacksonville for a three-game series.

Ranked 18th in this week's Baseball America magazine poll, Old Dominion (32-8 and 9-3) needs only to avoid a three-game Jacksonville sweep to clinch its second East Division title in three years. Should the Monarchs win the division, the conference tournament would begin May 12 in Norfolk, Va.

Jacksonville (29-19 and 9-6), bidding for its first-ever regular season pennant in eight years, has historically been a tough team to beat at Brest Field. Last year, the Dolphins were 28-7 at home; this year they are 20-11 at home.

D.N. 4-18-85

Lady Tops banquet set

Western's Lady Toppers, who made it to the NCAA women's Final Four this season, will hold their awards banquet Monday, April 22.

The banquet will be held in the executive dining room of the Downing University Center on Western's campus at 6:30 p.m.

Those who wish to attend the banquet will have to make reservations by calling the Lady Toppers' basketball office at 745-2133.

Reservations for the banquet must be made by 12:00 p.m. Friday, April 19. There is a \$7.50 charge for the banquet.

Western warms up for Blazers

Western's baseball team is on top of the Sun Belt West Division with a 9-3 record; however, the Hilltoppers have not yet clinched a berth in the annual conference championship tournament.

Western must face Alabama-Birmingham and South Florida again before making tournament plans.

The Hilltoppers travel to Birmingham this weekend to take on the Blazers, who stand at 2-8 in the division. The two teams will play a 1 p.m. CST double-header Saturday, and a 1 p.m. single game Sunday.

Western warmed up for the important series, that could see the Hilltoppers clinch the division, with a 6-1 win Thursday over Cumberland (Tenn.) at Denes Field.

John Bair (3-0) earned the win while Terry Crnkovich (5-2) took the loss for Cumberland in the errorless game. Rob Tomberlin smacked a home run, his 18th of the season, and Juan Galan hit a double for the Hilltoppers. Leo Mucci led Cumberland (22-12) from the plate with a homer.

The Hilltoppers have a 32-12 record after winning five and losing only two last week and going two for two this week with the win over Cumberland and a win under the

lights Tuesday at Middle Tennessee.

UAB will face a tough Hilltopper attack from the plate as well as a team which doesn't give up much in the field.

One of the most consistent players in the Hilltopper lineup this season has been senior Matt Logic. He has been the catcher for most of the season, but has also seen a little time as the designated hitter and at first base.

Logic is leading the squad with his .381 batting average. He has hit seven home runs, one triple, 11 doubles; and he has 36 RBI and 30 runs scored. In seven games last week, Logic had 15 hits for a .577 average with four homers, two doubles, eight RBI and 10 runs scored.

Those statistics earned him co-SBC player of the week honors for the week ending April 14. Barry Shifflett of UNC Charlotte was the other recipient of the weekly award.

Cumberland (Tenn.) 100 000 000-1 8 0
Western Kentucky 102 300 00x-6 9 0
Terry Crnkovich, Sean Egan (4) and John Shouse, Pat Delierman (4), Doug Saunders (8); John Bair, Mike Ballenger (8), Eddie Jent (9) and Matt Logic, Mike Cullen (7). W-Bair, 3-0. L-Crnkovich, 5-2. 2B-Western, Juan Galan. HR-Western, Rob Tomberlin (18). Cumberland, Leo Mucci. Records-Cumberland 22-12, Western 32-12.

Western splits double-header

DN 4-21-85

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Western's baseball team, the Sun Belt West Division leader, split a double-header Saturday with Alabama-Birmingham. The Blazers won the opener 12-1 and the Hilltoppers took the nightcap 10-7.

Larry Shikles was saddled with the loss in the opener, dropping to 8-2, but he set a Hilltopper season record for innings pitched with a total of 79 and one-third so far this year. The old record was 78 innings.

C.L. Thomas (4-1) earned the win in the nightcap, coming to the mound in relief of starter Greg Bartek. The errorless game was highlighted by seven home runs, five of them by Hilltoppers.

Rob Tomberlin hit his 19th homer, John Clem hit his 15th, Roger Daniel and Juan Galan hit their fourth each, and Gerald Ingram knocked out his third of the season for Western.

UAB's Bobby Jones smacked two homers. Mike Spearnock will start for Western on the mound in today's 1 p.m. game with the Blazers. Western stands at 33-13 overall and 10-4 in the division.

Tops make SBC playoffs with win

DN 4-22-85

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Western's baseball team Sunday assured itself of a Sun Belt Conference playoff berth by defeating West Division opponent Alabama-Birmingham 11-8 here.

The Hilltoppers went 2-1 in the three-game series, lifting their overall record to 34-13 and their league record to 11-4.

Western completes regular season league play at home this weekend with a three-game series against South Florida. Single games will be played Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Bill Vonnahme, in relief of starter Mike Spearnock, earned the win. He stands at 4-0 while UAB's Rex Todd dropped to 3-3 with the loss. The Hilltoppers scattered 16 hits among the Blazers.

Mike Roy, Western's senior first baseman from Waterloo, Ill., smacked his 14th homer of the season and he also hit the game-winning RBI.

And John Clem, a Hilltopper senior from Grosse Pointe Shores, Mich., hit his 15th home run of the season. The two, along with Rob Tomberlin and Randy Strijek, also hit a double each.

UAB dropped to 22-24 overall. Western is scheduled to play Samford here at 1 p.m. today.

Western Kentucky 200 022 230-11 16 1
Alabama-Birmingham 310 020 002-8 11 2
Spearneck, Mike Trapp (2), Bill Vonnahme (5), Eddie Jent (9) and Matt Logic; Rex Todd, Robin Herd (8), Ken Hughes (9) and Bobby Jones. W-Vonnahme, 4-0. L-Todd, 3-3. 2B—Western Kentucky, Rob Tomberlin, Randy Strijek, Mike Roy, John Clem, UAB, Johnny Morgan. 3B—UAB, Ralph Sanchez. HR—Western Kentucky, Roy, Clem, UAB, Jones. Records—Western Kentucky 34-13 UAB 22-24.

WKU's men's tennis team places fourth

MOBILE, Ala. — Western's men's tennis team finished fourth and the Lady Netters placed fifth in the Sun Belt Conference Tennis Championships here Saturday.

South Florida took both the men's and women's titles with 62 and 52 points, respectively. Western's men finished with 42 total points and the women garnered 21. Here are WKU's winners:

Western's men had two championship teams, including No. 3 singles Brad Hanks, who defeated Virginia Commonwealth's Jamie Hevron 7-6, 6-6, 6-1. And WKU's No. 3 doubles team of Matt Fones and Jonathan Yeaple defeated Old Dominion's Darryl Cummings and Phil Greswold 6-4, 7-6.

WKU's women had two three place shows, including No. 6 singles Julie Ross, who defeated Old Dominion's Andrea Stewart 6-3, 6-4. And the Lady Netters' No. 3 doubles team of Ross and Lisa Schmidt defeated ODU's Karen Perez and Stewart 7-6, 3-6, 1-4 (retired).

Mason to be honored

Western Lady Topper Lillie Mason has another honor to add to her collection as today is "Lillie Mason Day" at Olmstead in Logan County.

There will be a ceremony at Olmstead High School for the school's most famous graduate at 1:30 p.m. CST today. Olmstead was one of the five schools that was consolidated into Logan County High School.

DN 4-22-85

WKU's Pierce fires 218

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Western's golf team shot a team 1122 to place second in the Kentucky Intercollegiate last weekend at Lexington's par 72 Glenwood Country Club.

Hilltopper John Pierce won the individual medalist honors by shooting a 218. The University of Kentucky placed first overall with a team 1116. Morehead placed third with 1143 and Eastern Kentucky finished fourth with a 1163.

Western's other top finishers were Mike Vennick, who shot a 224, and Greg Basham, who fired a 225.

DN 4-22-85

Haskins to do TV commercial

Western Lady Topper Clemette Haskins has accepted an offer to participate in the 1985 NCAA Fiesta Bowl drug education television promotion program which is scheduled for May 18-21 in Phoenix, Ariz.

Haskins will be attending the program along with 11 other to name athletes around the country, including Kentucky's Kenny Walker.

The 14-year-old Fiesta Bowl has been a leader with its drug education program and it has been successful in the past.

Each of the 12 athletes will videotape a 30-second promotional message written by the NCAA stressing the harmful affects of drug and alcohol abuse. The 30-second spots will be aired during the college football season on local television stations or during CBS's televised coverage of the 1986 NCAA Basketball Championship.

Haskins, a 5-9 guard, helped to lead her 1984-85 Lady Topper squad to a 28-6 record enroute to the NCAA Women's Final Four in Austin, Texas. The Lady Toppers posted a school record 28 wins, before losing 91-78 to Georgia in the tournament semifinals.

WKU beats UL in slugfest

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Western smacked eight home runs out of Parkway Field here Tuesday to down Louisville 19-15 in college baseball action.

Roger Daniel hit three home runs, Rob Tomberlin and John Clem hit two homers each, and Mike Roy bounced one out of the park to lead the Hilltoppers in the slugfest. Louisville shot four homers out of the park.

Mike Spearnock (2-4) pitched seven innings to earn the win for Western. He was relieved by Mike Ballenger, who was relieved by Eddie Jent. Kevin Burch (2-6) went five innings before being relieved by Jeff Cook. Burch was saddled with the loss.

Tomberlin and Matt Logic, Western's catcher, also hit a double each for the Hilltoppers.

Going into the second inning, the game was tied 5-5. Western scored three more runs in the top of the third to take the lead and keep it, although the Cardinals were on the Hilltoppers' heels the rest of the way.

Western went to 36-13 going into today's game at Indiana State and Louisville dropped to 17-23.

Western Kentucky 503 122 312—19 16 1
Louisville 500 112 150—15 16 1
Mike Spearnock, Mike Ballenger (8),
Eddie Jent (8) and Matt Logic; Kevin
Burch, Jeff Cook (5), Steve Hysell (6),
Bradley George (8) and Bo Cleveland.
W—Spearneck, 2-4, L—Burch, 2-6, 2B—
Louisville, Chris Forest, Curtis Watson.
Western, Rob Tomberlin, Matt Logic.
HR—Western, Tomberlin 2, John Clem 2,
Mike Roy, Roger Daniel 3, Louisville, Mark
Cambron, Bill Gray, Bo Cleveland 2.
Records—Western 36-13, Louisville 17-23.

Six-run inning powers WKU

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Juan Galan and John Clem hit a home run each to lead Western's baseball team to an 8-5 win over Samford here Monday.

The victory upped Western's record to 35-13 going into Wednesday's game at Indiana State, while Samford dropped to 19-34.

Doug Taulbee (2-1) pitched the win in relief of starter John Bair. Taulbee came on the mound in the fifth inning and Eddie Jent relieved him in the ninth.

Dale Burnett, who relieved starter John Baker in the seventh, was saddled with the loss and dropped to 2-4.

Western was down 4-2 going into the top of the seventh, when the Hilltoppers struck for six runs. Samford could only muster one run, in the bottom of the seventh, after that drubbing.

Western scattered eight hits against the Samford pitchers, including a double by Mike Roy. David Phillips and Ty Payne led Samford with a home run each.

Western Kentucky 000 020 600—8 8 2
Samford 130 000 100—5 5 1
John Bair, Doug Taulbee (5), Eddie Jent
(9) and Mike Cullen, John Baker, Dale
Burnett (7), Carl Schlotter (7) and Ty
Payne. W—Taulbee 2-1, L—Burnett, 2-4.
2B—Western, Mike Roy, Samford, Robbie
Parker. HR—Western, Juan Galan, John
Clem, Samford, David Phillips, Ty Payne.
Records—Western 35-13, Samford 19-34.

D.N. 4-23 85

Dunbar's Lee signs with WKU

D N 4-24-85

Baseball

At Terre Haute, Ind.

Western Kentucky 310 010 0-5 4 2
Indiana State 100 123 x-7 9 1
Larry Shikles, Mike Trapp (6) and
Matt Logic, Mike Gardiner, Blaise Il-
sley (2) and Mike Eberle. W - Ilsley (9-
3). L - Trapp (3-3). 2B - Tommy
Collins (15). HR - Rob Tomberlin
(WK). John Clem (WK), Eberle (IS),
Andy Ghelti (IS).

Western Kentucky 001 140 0-6 9 5
Indiana State 002 210 0-5 9 1
C.L. Thomas, Kevin Pearce (5) and
Matt Logic, Mike Cullen (2), Paul
Quinzer, Andy Ghelti (5) and Mike
Eberle. W - Pearce (2-1). L - Ghelti
(4-5). 2B - Rob Tomberlin (WK), Bob
Zeinhnen (IS), Tom Pease (IS). 3B -
Terry Burke (IS), Dan Roman (IS). HR -
Mike Roy (2) (WK). Team records
- Western Kentucky 37-14, Indiana
State 39-20. C.J. 4-25-85

Western nips U of L 7-6

Special to The Courier-Journal

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — John Clem hit a triple and scored on a fielder's choice to give Western Kentucky a 7-6 win over Louisville yesterday. Western (38-14) trailed Louisville 6-5 going into the ninth in-
ning.

Designated hitter Matt Logic had two doubles and two RBIs for West-
ern. Rob Tomberlin added two hits,
including a double for the Hilltop-
pers.

Baseball

At Bowling Green, Ky.

Louisville 000 102 003-6 7 2
Western Kentucky 200 110 012-7 9 1
David McCormick, Kerry Griffith
(8) and Bo Cleveland, John Blair, Bill
Vonnahme (8), Eddie Jent (9), Doug
Taulbee (9) and Mike Cullen. W -
Taulbee (3-1). L - Griffith (1-3). 2B -
Matt Logic (2) (W), Rob Tomberlin
(W), Randy Strilek (W), Bill Gray (L),
Chris Forrest (2) (L). 3B - John Clem
(W). HR - Bo Cleveland (L), Harry
Meek (L). Team records - Louisville
17-25, Western Kentucky 38-14.

BALTIMORE, Md. — Kurk Lee, the high school basketball player of the year in the Baltimore metropolitan area this season, has signed a national-letter-of-intent to play college basketball at Western.

Lee is the first player to sign with the Hilltoppers during the spring signing period, which began April 10. He was also recruited by South Carolina, Kansas and Missouri.

A 6-1, 155-pound point guard, Lee led Baltimore's Dunbar High School to a 29-1 record and No. 1 national ranking by USA Today and CNN. Dunbar also won the Maryland Scholastic Association championship with a 12-0 mark.

"Kurk is a good player to add to our depth and help shore up our backcourt," said Western coach Clem Haskins after the signing. "He has a chance to perhaps play as a freshman. As talented as he is, he could possibly be starting before the season is over. I think that may have been one of his reasons for choosing Western. He sees an opportunity to play."

Lee averaged 18 points, five assists and seven rebounds per game at Dunbar. He had a 63 percent shooting average from field and an 82 percent average from the free-throw line.

A two-year letterman, he also was an important part of Dunbar's 1983-84 team that went 30-1.

"Kurk follows in the tradition of the great points guards that we've had here (Tyrone Bogues of Wake Forest and Taurence Chisholm of Delaware)," said Dunbar coach Bob Wade. "He's a very talented young man, on and off the court. He should blend in well at Western."

Lee became the fourth Dunbar member to play collegiately. Brothers Perry and Terry Dozier have signed with South Carolina and Reginald McNeal has signed with Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Lee joins two other players who signed to play at Western during the fall signing period. Keith Lickliter, a 6-1, 175-pound guard from North Central Marion High School in Indianapolis, and Brett McNeal, a 6-3½, 167-pound guard from Minneapolis North Community High School, signed with the Hilltoppers last November.

Haskins is in Detroit today to try to sign junior college prospect, Lenny Cotton, of Highland Park Junior College. Western was also after Vernon Carr, a teammate of Cotton's, but he has opted to sign with Michigan State.

"We're chasing a couple more players," Haskins said. "We'd like to get one more second guard to add to our depth."

With the signing of Lee, Western has one more scholarship to offer.

Western splits twin bill

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (AP) — First baseman Mike Roy swatted a three-run homer in the top of the fifth as Western Kentucky downed Indiana State 6-5 to avenge a loss in the first game of a college baseball double-header.

Andy Ghelsi knocked in Boi Rodriguez and Tom Pease in the first game Wednesday with a home run in the bottom of the sixth as Indiana State won 7-5.

Blaise Ilsley, 9-3, had the win in the first game. Mike Trapp, 3-3, was the losing pitcher.

Kevin Pearce, 2-1, pitched three innings of relief for Western Kentucky and had three strike outs as the Hilltoppers moved to 37-14.

Ghelsi, 4-5, had the loss. Indiana State is now 39-20.

D N 4-25-85

Records fall as Tops finish off USF 13-7

4-30-85

By THOMAS T. ROSS
Daily News Sports Editor

A troop of Boys Scouts stopped by Denes Field on Monday just to see how it was done.

It took less than a couple of innings, but the scouts learned more than a couple of things as they and about 200 other Hilltopper fans watched Western scatter 16 hits and defeat South Florida 13-7 in Sun Belt Conference baseball action.

The win cleaned up a three-game sweep over the Bulls for Western, which clinched the SBC West Division on Sunday with an 11-5 win over USF. The Hilltoppers beat USF 10-4 Saturday in the series' opener.

"We played good enough to win, but that's about all," said Western coach Joel Murrie, who saw his club go to 41-14 and 14-4 and break three school records:

—Rob Tomberlin, a junior third baseman from Richfield, Minn., hit his 24th home run to break Mike Williams' single-season mark of 23 set in 1980. Last week Tomberlin broke the SBC single-season home run record of 22, set by Jacksonville's Randy Riley in 1984.

—Randy Strijek, a sophomore shortstop from Schenectady, N.Y., hit his seventh triple of the year to break the marks of Don Durham (1970), Jim Zwiesler (1971) and Robert Pickett (1980), all of whom hit six in a single season.

—Larry Shikles, a senior pitcher from Jefferson City, Mo., hurled his ninth win in 11 games to break the single-season most victories record of eight wins by Paul Orberon (1978), Mark Williams (1980), Doug Metz (1981) and Cam Walker (1982).

And John Clem's two home runs lifted his season total to 22, helping him to close in on Williams' and Tomberlin's marks. Plus Matt Logic, a senior catcher from Racine, Wis., nailed his ninth home run of the season. This one was a special treat for the fans — an in-the-park homer.

Western now has 100 home runs on the season going into tonight's game against Morehead State in Paintsville.

Shikles pitched six and one-third innings before tuckering out and being relieved by junior Mike Ballenger, who pitched the last two and two-thirds without a run being scored against him. It wasn't enough to earn a save, but Murrie said the difference in the game was the bullpen.

"They didn't score off of our bullpen and we scored off of theirs," Murrie said. "That was the whole difference. We're doing something different this year with our pitchers that we haven't done in the past.

"There was a possibility that we babied our pitchers some in the past, we'd pitch them only once a week. Now we have them pitching twice a week. That allows for only four starting pitchers, four middle men, and two short relievers. As a result, we have stronger starters and stronger relievers. That was the difference today."

Shikles, who finished at 3-4 last year, said he was excited about breaking the record, but added it's hard to lose when you have 13 runs scored to support you.

"I feel pretty good about the whole thing," Shikles said. "I was getting pretty tired by the fifth inning, but coach left me in there, and I'm glad he did."

Phil Fagnano started for the Bulls, but was relieved after four innings in which he gave up seven hits and six runs, all of them earned. He was relieved by Randy Wilson, who gave up nine hits and seven earned runs to be saddled with the loss and drop to 3-7.

"Western swept us but good," said USF coach Robin Roberts, whose club fell to 39-21 and 10-8. "We pitched really bad and we played really bad. We were never able to get anything going enough to get them over a barrel. They always came back."

USF scored two runs in the first

and it wasn't until the third inning that Western tied the score 2-2. Left fielder Juan Galan led off with a base hit, followed by a Strijek single.

With Galan on second and Strijek on first, Tomberlin attempted to bunt, but missed. Galan already committed himself and was picked off at third. Tomberlin then hit a single and Strijek was forced out at second.

Then Clem's 21st home run of the season brought Strijek home for the the two runs needed to tie the game up.

Western added four more runs in the fifth, with the help of back-to-back standup doubles. Tomberlin hit a standup double off the rightfield wall to bring home Galan and advance Strijek to third. Then Clem hit a shot to the right-centerfield wall for a standup double, bringing home Strijek and Tomberlin. The Bulls' pitching change was made soon after. Second baseman Bobby Velez hit a double to bring Clem home to round out the inning's scoring.

USF scored four runs in the top of the sixth to tie the game 6-6, but Western scored four more runs in the bottom of the inning to take a 10-6 lead.

After Galan and Strijek had struck out, Tomberlin hit his record-breaking home run over the left field wall to score. Clem and Mike Roy got on base on singles, then Logic smacked his in-the-park homer at about the 380 mark of center field to score three runs. USF center fielder Matt Mainini got under the ball, then wavered, and the ball hit the wall right over his head. From step one, Logic was running at full speed.

"Something just didn't look right," Logic said of Mainini's defense on the play. "He just didn't look like he had a good bead on the ball, he looked like he was drifting around out there, so I kept

Continued on Page 11
Column 3, This Section

Tops fall to Morehead

D.N. 5-1-85

PAINTSVILLE, Ky. — The Western Kentucky Hilltoppers fell to Morehead State 8-4 here Tuesday in non-conference collegiate baseball action.

The Hilltoppers, winners of the Sun Belt Conference West Division, fell to 41-15 overall going into Thursday's 4 p.m. game against Austin Peay at Denes Field. Morehead State upped its record to 24-16-1.

Western, which is ranked No. 21 and 27 in the nation this week according to Baseball America and Collegiate Baseball, respectively, was led from the plate by Randy Strijek.

Strijek, the Hilltoppers' shortstop from Schenectady, N.Y., hit two solo home runs to bring his season total to six. His first home run of the day came off of the first pitch of the game. He led off the eighth inning with his second solo home run.

Morehead State's Rob Williams (7-3) picked up the win and C.L. Thomas, a freshman right-hander from Sacramento, Ky., was saddled with the loss and fell to 3-2. Doug Taulbee, a junior from Lexington, came in the seventh inning in short relief of Thomas.

After Strijek's homer in the first, Rob Tomberlin walked and Mike Roy was picked off on a fielder's choice, to advance Tomberlin to second. Matt Logic hit a double to right field, bringing home Roy and giving Western a 2-0 lead.

Western didn't score again until Strijek hit his second homer. Its other run came in when Tomberlin scored after getting on with a base hit. John Clem walked, advancing Tomberlin to second. A wild pitch allowed Tomberlin to reach third and then score after Clem got

caught in a squeeze play between first and second.

Morehead State was led from the plate by John Miller and Wayne Campbell, both of whom hit solo home runs. Campbell also hit a double.

Western Kentucky 200 000 020—4 6 1
Morehead State 000 201 50x—8 12 0
C.L. Thomas, Doug Taulbee (7) and Matt Logic; Rob Williams, Willie Blair (7), Ray Hornback (9) and Dan Smith. W—Williams, 7-3. L—Thomas, 3-2. 2B—Western Kentucky, Logic. Morehead State, Jeff Ratliff, Wayne Campbell, Shawn Johnson. HR—Western Kentucky, Randy Strijek 2 (6). Morehead State, John Miller, Campbell. Team Records—Western Kentucky 41-14, Morehead State 24-16-1.

Baseball

Tuesday at Paintsville, Ky.

Western Kentucky 200 000 020—4 6 1
Morehead State 000 201 50x—8 12 0
C.L. Thomas, Doug Taulbee (7) and Matt Logic, Rob Williams, Willie Blair (7), Ray Hornback (9) and Dan Smith. W—Williams (7-3). L—Thomas (5-2). 2B—Matt Logic (W), Jeff Ratliff (M), Wayne Campbell (M), Shawn Johnson (M). HR—Randy Strijek (W) 2, John Miller (M), Wayne Campbell. Records: Western Kentucky 41-15, Morehead State 24-16-1. C. J.

5-2-85

Shikles pitches ninth victory

Continued From Page 10
running. When I hit second base, I saw the ball go over his glove and then I knew I had a good chance to make it. That was a once in a lifetime shot."

USF scored its last run in the seventh to come within three — 10-7. Western capped the win, however, in the eighth when it scored its last three runs. Strijek led off with his record-breaking triple, then Tomberlin brought him home with a single. Clem followed up with his 24th homer to right field, over the scoreboard, to score Tomberlin.

Clem went four for five, Strijek went three for five and Tomberlin went three for four at the plate.

South Florida 200 004 100—7 9 0
Western Kentucky 002 044 03x—13 16 2
Phil Fagnano, Randy Wilson (5) and Scott Hemond; Larry Shikles, Mike Ballenger (7) and Matt Logic. W—Shikles, 9-2. L—Wilson, 3-6. 2B—South Florida, Tony Altonso. Western Kentucky, Rob Tomberlin, John Clem. 3B—Florida, Ward Hemond. Western Kentucky, Clem 2 (22), Tomberlin (24), Logic (9). Team records—South Florida 39-21, 10-8. Western Kentucky 41-14, 14-4.

Sun Belt one of best

5-57-85 D.V.

TAMPA, Fla. — Three .400 hitters continue to set the pace for the Sun Belt Conference, which remains one of the top offensive leagues in collegiate baseball with its overall .311 average.

With most clubs entering the final week of the regular season, UNC Charlotte's Barry Shifflett holds the top spot in the conference batting race with a .470 average. A junior from Earlysville, Va., Shifflett has 86 hits in 183 at-bats, including 34 extra base hits. In 57 games this season, he has failed to reach base safely in only four contests.

Alabama-Birmingham's Ralph Sanchez is next with a .453 average. Sanchez, a senior outfielder from Austell, Ga., hit .468 last season but didn't have enough

at-bats to qualify for the conference batting title. In 49 games, Sanchez has scored 52 runs and driven in 46.

Old Dominion's Rob Sessoms, hitting .402, is the main reason why the Monarchs are 42-9 and ranked nationally in the polls. The junior from Virginia Beach, who hits left-handed, is one of six ODU regulars batting .360 or better.

• • •

Senior outfielder Richie Hermann of South Alabama used a .714 batting average and an .810 on-base percentage in seven games to earn Sun Belt player of the week honors for the period ending last Tuesday.

A native of Mobile, Ala., Hermann was 10 for 14 at the plate, with seven walks, seven RBI, four

extra base hits and three stolen bases. In the Jaguars' 8-2 win at Alabama, Hermann was three for three with a triple and three runs batted in. His exploits helped raise his season's average to .341.

West Division notes: Western and Louisville set an NCAA record for home runs in a nine-inning game when the teams combined for 13 homers in a 19-15 Hilltopper win last week at Louisville.

Western smacked eight homers and Louisville knocked out five ... Western is the first team in SBC history to go from last place to win a divisional title outright the next year ... Hilltoppers Rob Tomberlin, John Clem and Mike Roy lead the SBC in home runs ... Western is

hitting leagues

second in the league in team batting with its .322 average ... Clem is fourth in the SBC in hitting with his .398 average.

South Alabama has gone 126 games without being shutout ... UAB's Jonny Morgan was 10 for 14 (.714) in a weekend series vs. USA ...

South Alabama had 10 consecutive pinch-hitters reach base on nine hits and a walk over a four-game stretch. The Jags has seven straight pinch hits during one period ... USA has drawn 20,244 fans in 16 home dates this season, an average of 1,265 per game.

East Division notes: The eighth annual SBC Tournament begins at DU's Bud Metheny Complex on

Sunday, May 12. West Division champ Western meets Jacksonville in the opener and ODU, which won the East Division, faces South Florida. It is a double-elimination tournament, with the championship game set May 14 ...

Left-hander, Kevin Bearse, the league's strikeout leader, fanned nine in 16 innings last week for ODU. Bearse hurled complete game victories over Virginia and Virginia Commonwealth to raise his record to 10-2 ...

The VCU Rams averaged 11.7 runs per game last week, going 4-3 ... Field Culbreth struck out 11 in pitching UNCC to a 9-1 win over NC Wesleyan. Culbreth also hit .429 for the week, going six for six versus Catawba ... VCU's Chuck Hiter has 30 RBI in his last 15 games ... Tommy West (13-1) of ODU has won his last 13 decisions and now owns the school mark for wins in a season ... Alex Saylor's 14 home runs is a record at UNCC.

WUKU drops final

5-5-85

By PERRY GASKILL
Daily News Sports Writer

Western's baseball team had a pitching dual in its last home game of the season at Nick Denes Field on Friday that kept the Hilltopper hitting game contained enough to give the University of Kentucky a 7-4 upset win.

Winning pitcher Joe Farmer threw for seven innings in the contest, and according to Wildcat coach Keith Madison, Farmer's performance mirrored what has been happening with his team all season. With an earned run average of 5.74 going into the contest, the senior right-hander from Louisville gave up only two runs this time around.

"Joe Farmer just did a great job of keeping the Western hitters off balance, especially early in the game," Madison said. "That (Farmer's ERA) is a little deceiving because he had a horrible first half (of the season) but he's been throwing real well for us lately."

"I think the key for us was keeping runners off base when guys like Clem and Tomberlin came up to bat. When those kind of people came up, they didn't seem to get in scoring position."

Western pitcher Greg Bartek gave up four hits in the first inning that drove in two runs and moved the Wildcats (26-24) into an early lead. The Hilltoppers scored one run in the bottom of the first when a sacrifice fly by first baseman

Mike Roy brought shortstop Randy Strijek in from third.

"I realize when you schedule games against good competition, you're going to get beat," said Western coach Joel Murrie. "I can accept that point of view."

"We had a nice crowd out here today, a crowd that came out thinking, gosh, these are the Western Division champs, these guys have won 41 games, these guys are ranked in the top twenty."

"And we came out and played our worst defensive game of the year, and got beat by not throwing strikes, by not executing, and we beat ourselves. I hate to take anything away from the other club. They won the game, and they deserved to win, but we outplayed ourselves. The other team didn't outplay us; we outplayed ourselves."

Western was 41-16 going into Saturday night's game with the Wildcats at Elizabethtown.

Both teams scored no more runs until the top of the sixth inning when senior outfielder Kevin Gothard swung on a Bartek pitch with a 1-2 count, and launched it over the right field wall. It was Gothard's third home run of the season, and the first for UK in the last six games.

This year's Wildcat team has a lot of seniors in the starting lineup, but Madison said the added experience has not been much help.

"Based on our record, it obvi-

ously hasn't been a positive factor," Madison said. "We have a very talented club — we were picked to be one of the top four teams in the South Eastern Conference this year — but we didn't live up to our expectations. And we're all disappointed about that, but there have been times this season when we have played very well."

"Obviously, we waited too long to catch fire because we didn't make the playoffs."

The Hilltoppers picked up a home run of their own in the bottom of the sixth when right fielder John Clem came up with one out and blasted Farmer's first pitch out of right field. For Clem, the leading Western hitter with a .399 batting average, it was homer No. 23 of the season and he now trails third baseman Rob Tomberlin's record-setting home run effort by one.

In the bottom of the seventh inning, Western tied the score 3-3 when Bobby Velez stole home on a Farmer wild pitch. And it remained tied until the eighth when Tomberlin scored from third on a sacrifice fly by Roy.

That was Tomberlin's 72nd run scored this season, and another new all-time Western individual record. The old record was set by Mike Murray in 1980.

At that point, it looked like Western should have had the game locked up, but it just didn't happen.

home game to UK 7-4

In the top of the ninth, Bartek gave up a triple to outfielder Russ Schueler that drove in outfielder Scott Belding and the score was tied once again.

Murrie pulled Bartek, and brought in right-hander Eddie Jent, but Jent fared little better. His third ball of the game was a wild pitch, and allowed Schueler to steal home. It proved to be the winning run.

Two batters — one hit and one out later — and Jent walked to the dugout as Hilltopper right-hander Mike Ballenger went to the mound. Ballenger gave up one hit and then struck out one batter, but faced second baseman Terry Shumpert after that and threw a pitch that Shumpert promptly rocketed toward Strijek. Then ball bounced between Strijek's legs, rolled into center field, and brought in the final two UK runs of the day.

"They've got a scrappy club," Murrie said. "I think right now Kentucky had more to play for today than we did. And the fact that they're eliminated and have

got the best ballclub in the state.

"This is their tournament. If I was coaching them, that's the way I'd look at it. I'd say, hey, this is our chance to play against somebody that could go a long way and we could end the season on a winning note. But for us, it's just another game to get ready for the

tournament. That's all these are."

University of Kentucky 200 001 004-7 10 0
Western Kentucky 100 001 110-4 7 3
Joe Farmer, Vince Tyra (8), Jeff Heilman (9), and Greg Stephens; Greg Bartek, Eddie Jent (9), Mike Ballenger (9), and Matt Logic W — Tyra, 4-1, L — Bartek, 7-2, 2B — Kentucky, Clark, Western Kentucky, Tomberlin, 3B — Kentucky, Schueler, Western Kentucky — Velez, HRs — Kentucky, Gothard (3), Western Kentucky, Clem (23), Team Records — Kentucky 26-24, Western Kentucky 41-16.

Kentucky sweeps Hilltoppers

D. V 5-6-85

The University of Kentucky swept a three-game series from Western last weekend in non-conference collegiate baseball action. The series brought to a close the Hilltoppers' regular season.

Western, winner of the regular-season crown in the Sun Belt Conference West Division, fell to 41-18 overall. Kentucky upped its record to 28-24.

At Lexington on Sunday, the Hilltoppers fell 4-3. On Saturday in Elizabethtown, a neutral site, Western lost 5-4 under the lights. And in the series' opener on Friday at Denes Field, the Wildcats beat Western 7-4.

In Sunday's game, Larry Shikles pitched all nine innings and was saddled with the loss and fell to 9-3. Last week against South Florida, Shikles broke the school's single-season most victories record with his ninth win.

UK's Jay Ray (6-6) earned the win in relief of starter Jeff Hellman in the seventh inning. Ray was relieved by Jack Savage in the ninth.

John Clem and Rob Tomberlin led Western from the plate with a double each. Roger Daniel hit his ninth Hilltopper home run. For UK, Rick Campbell, a Bowling Green native, hit two homers, bringing his season-total to 14; and teammates Jim Leyritz and Greg Stephens connected on one homer each.

In Saturday's game at Elizabethtown High School, Mike Spearnock went the distance for Western and fell to 3-5. UK's Chris Carroll went to 4-1 with the win.

Mike Roy led Western from the plate with a double and his 19th home run of the season. Clem hit his 24th homer. For UK, Campbell smacked a double and Clint Arnold blasted out his fifth homer of the season.

Western next travels to Norfolk, Va. May 12-14 for the SBC Baseball Championships.

Saturday's Game

At Elizabethtown

University of Kentucky 300 100 010-5 4 2
Western Kentucky 200 000 200-4 8 1
Chris Carroll and Robbie Buchanan. Mike Spearnock and Matt Logic. W-Carroll, 41. L-Spearnock, 3-5. 2B-Kentucky, Rick Campbell. Western Kentucky, Mike Roy. HR-Kentucky, Clint Arnold (5). Western Kentucky, Mike Roy (19), John Clem (24).

Sunday's Game

At Lexington

Western Kentucky 012 000 000-3 11 2
University of Kentucky 101 001 10x-4 6 0
Larry Shikles and Mike Cullen. Jeff Hellman, Jay Ray (7), Jack Savage (9) and Greg Stephens. W-Ray, 6-6. L-Shikles, 9-3. 2B-Western Kentucky, Clem, Rob Tomberlin. HR-Western Kentucky, Roger Daniel (9). Kentucky-Campbell (2 (14), Stephens (4), Jim Leyritz (11). Team records-Western Kentucky 41-18 Kentucky 28-24.

Bus chartered for WKU fans

Those Western baseball fans wishing to attend the Sun Belt Conference Championships May 12-14 in Norfolk, Va., but had no way of getting there, are now in luck.

A pep bus has been chartered for Hilltopper fans and will depart Bowling Green on Saturday, May 11. The cost for the roundtrip ride is \$80 per person. Rooms are available, based on double occupancy, for \$35 a night.

The group will stay anywhere from two to four nights, depending on Western's success on the field. The registration deadline is Tuesday, May 7. For more information contact Gary West of the Hilltopper Hundred Club.

• • •

Western, which already has won the regular season West Division title, closes out the regular season this weekend with a three-game series against the University of Kentucky. Thursday's game against Austin Peay was rained out.

The UK series gets started at 4 p.m. today at Denes Field. On Saturday the teams will play at a neutral site, Elizabethtown High School, in a 6 p.m. CDT contest. The series concludes at 1 p.m. CDT Sunday at UK's ballpark.

D. V 5-3-85

By PERRY GASKILL
Daily News Sports Writer

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Holmes signs WC's Burnette

David Burnette, a Warren Central senior, has signed to play college soccer at Western. Hilltopper coach David Holmes announced. The second-year coach also signed Nashville's Donald Elliott and Louisville's Wayne Kraus.

Despite Burnette never playing high school soccer (the county schools and Bowling Green City school don't field soccer teams), Holmes said he is very pleased.

"David is one of the best soccer athletes developed in Western Kentucky," Holmes said. "He's an excellent in-fielder."

Burnette (5-8, 135-pounds) did play, however, for the Kentucky Select soccer team and was named to the All-Midwest Regional Select team in 1983. The regional encompasses a 13-state area, earning Burnette recognition as one of the top 36 players in that part of the country.

Before coming to Bowling Green, he played for Owensboro Athletic, an under-19 team.

Elliott, a 6-0, 150-pounder, is currently playing for undefeated Brentwood High School, the top-ranked team in Tennessee. The three-year letterman was named the most valuable player in the Hendersonville Tournament in 1984.

"He's an enthusiastic player on one of the best teams in Tennessee," Holmes said. "We're looking forward to having someone from such a tradition-rich school join us."

Kraus, a 5-7, 135-pound midfielder, plays for Louisville Trinity.

"Wayne is another excellent athlete who could help us a lot," Holmes said. "He should be a fine asset for our program and our university community."

Five players for Western are selected All-Sun Belt

Special to The Courier-Journal

NORFOLK, Va. — Western Kentucky, winner of Sun Belt West Division this season, placed five players on the West All-Conference team chosen yesterday. The selections were made prior to today's opening round of the Sun Belt Conference tournament hosted by East Division winner Old Dominion.

Senior right-fielder John Clem hit .397, with a school and conference

BASEBALL

record 24 home runs while driving in 72 runs to lead Western Kentucky.

Junior third baseman Rob Tomberlin had a .391 average, tying Clem's record with 24 home runs. He had 62 RBIs.

Sophomore shortstop Randy Strijek averaged .329 with six home runs and 42 RBIs. He set a school record and led the Sun Belt with seven triples. Senior designated hitter and first baseman Mike Roy hit .345, with 19 home runs and 53 RBIs.

Senior right-handed pitcher Larry Shikles went 9-3 overall with a 4.02 ERA. He set a Western Kentucky record for wins and innings pitched (98 $\frac{2}{3}$) to round out the Hilltoppers named to the All-Conference team.

Old Dominion led the conference with eight players named to the East Division team.

In the first round of the three-day, double-elimination tournament, Western Kentucky, with a 14-4 conference record and 41-18 overall, will play East Division runner-up Jacksonville at 1 p.m. EDT today. Old Dominion will take on West Division runner-up South Florida later.

The tournament winner receives an automatic bid to the NCAA championship tournament.

SUN BELT ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

East division: First base — Sean O'Hare, Old Dominion; Second base — Kevin Ayers, UNC Charlotte; Willey Lee, Old Dominion; Shortstop — Tom Reichel, Old Dominion; Third base — Barry Shifflett, UNC Charlotte; Outfield — Rob Sessoms, Old Dominion; Tom Meucci, Jacksonville; Nick Boothe, Old Dominion; Catcher — Chuck Downs, Virginia Commonwealth; Bill Journey, UNC Charlotte; Designated hitter — Todd Azar, Old Dominion; Pitchers — Tommy West, Old Dominion; Kevin Bearse, Old Dominion; Pete Palermo, Jacksonville.

West division: First base — Todd Waggoner, South Florida; Second base — Greg Bullard, South Florida; Shortstop — Randy Strijek, Western Kentucky; Third base — Rob Tomberlin, Western Kentucky; Outfield — John Clem, Western Kentucky; Ralph Sanchez, Alabama-Birmingham; Matt Manini, South Florida; Catcher — Scott Hemond, South Florida; Designated hitter — Mike Roy, Western Kentucky; Pitchers — Larry Shikles, Western Kentucky; Marty Valentine, South Florida; Jimmy Meek, Alabama-Birmingham.

Tops ready for Jax;

D A 5-12-85

NORFOLK, Va. — Western's baseball team will take on Jacksonville in the first-round of the Sun Belt Conference Baseball Championships at 12 p.m. CDT today here at Old Dominion's Bud Metheney Complex.

The Hilltoppers won the SBC West Division with a 14-4 record and finished the regular season last week with a 41-18 mark after dropping a three-game series to the University of Kentucky.

Jacksonville finished in second in the SBC East Division with a 10-8 record, behind host Old Dominion, which finished 46-9 overall. South Florida (42-21), the West Division's second place team, will play ODU at 3 p.m. today.

The tournament will continue Monday with games scheduled for 12 p.m., 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. and the

sixth game is set at 5 p.m. Tuesday. Since the tournament is a double-elimination format, a seventh game will be played at 8 p.m. Tuesday, if necessary.

Western, in its first-ever SBC Championship appearance, enters the competition hitting .319 as a team, second in the conference. The top four hitters have accounted for 76 of the team's 106 home runs this season and the top five are batting .363, collectively.

Western's No. 2, 3 and 4 batters, Rob Tomberlin, John Clem and Mike Roy, rank as the top three power hitters in the SBC. Individually, Clem ranks fourth in batting at .397 and third in RBI with 72. Tomberlin is second in runs scored with 75 and Randy Strijek is second in triples with seven.

In team pitching, Western ranks fourth in the SBC with a 4.87 ERA and the bullpen has 16 saves and a 12-5 record.

"Making the tournament was our goal this season," said Joel Murrie, Western's head coach. "We're excited about the competition and I hope we can prove ourselves to be a good team. Now, we'd like nothing better than to earn our way into the NCAA tournament."

On their way to the tournament during the regular season, the Hilltoppers broke four team records and eight individual season records. The new standard for at-bats is 1,933 opposed to the old mark of 1,910; home runs were boosted from 89 to 106; innings pitched went from 463.1 to 478.1; and strikeouts went from 391 to 404.

five named All-SBC

Strijek set new marks for at-bats with 243, compared to the old mark of 240, and triples seven, breaking the old record of six held by three former Hilltoppers.

Tomberlin broke the runs scored record with 75, the former being 71. Both Tomberlin and Clem set new records in home runs with 24 each, breaking Mike Williams' mark of 21, and total bases with Tomberlin hitting for 182 and Clem getting 176. The old mark was 174. Clem's 40 walks also surpassed the previous record of 39.

In pitching, Larry Shikles set the new mark for innings pitched with 8.2 and for victories with nine. The old records were 78 and eight, respectively.

Several other school records are within reach and if the Hilltoppers continue their season, new marks

could be set in games played, runs batted in, doubles and most pitching appearances.

Jacksonville is batting .307 as a team, fourth in the SBC. Jacksonville, coached by former major leaguer Tom Bradley, is led at the plate by left fielder Tom Meucci and first baseman Jeff Kennedy.

Meucci, a senior right-hander from Newington, Conn., is fifth in the league in batting with his .395 average. Kennedy, a junior right-hander from Fort Myers, Fla., is fourth in the league in home runs with 30.

Jacksonville, much like Western, finds much of its strength in its pitching staff. The Dolphins are third in the league in team pitching with a 4.80 ERA.

Western had five Hilltoppers named to the All-SBC squad Saturday. Strijek was honored at shortstop; Clem at rightfield; Roy at designated hitter; Tomberlin at third base and Shikles at pitcher.

While the Hilltoppers are making their first tournament appearance since joining the league in 1983, South Florida will tie the conference record for most appearances, which is seven, held by South Alabama.

ODU is competing in its third straight SBC tournament, while Jax has earned its second invitation in the last five years. Only the top two teams from each division qualify for the tournament, whose winner receives an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament.

Daily News Sports Writer
Randy Strijek had a simple request before this baseball season began.

"He came to me and said 'Lep, I want to learn how to hit,'" said Joel Lepel, Western's assistant baseball coach.

Strijek, by his own admission, needed some hitting instruction.

"Last year I couldn't put anything together," Strijek said.

You see, the sophomore from Schenectady, N.Y., who was named to the All-Sun Belt Conference West Division team Saturday, didn't make the greatest adjustment in the world to college baseball.

A starter as a freshman, Strijek hit .226 through 54 games. He only had 35 hits and 15 RBI in 155 at-bats last season. He struck out 27 times.

Strijek came back this fall and began to sharpen his game, both at the plate and in the field.

He improved so much that he became Coach Joel Murrie's lead-off hitter this season, and has he ever produced from that spot.

Strijek has upped his average by more than 100 points this season. The 6-1, 165-pound shortstop is hitting .329 for the 41-18 Hilltoppers. He has 80 hits and 42 RBI, and he has struckout only 37 times with almost 100 more at-bats.

Strijek even set a hitting record with seven triples, the highest single-season number of any player in Western's history.

"Randy is a super athlete, and super athletes will take to instruction," Lepel said. "If he wanted it bad enough he was going to get it."

And, it seems that he has gotten it, the hitting that is. Strijek has never had that many problems in the field.

Witness if you will the no outs, bases loaded situation in a game with South Alabama at Denes Field earlier this season.

USA's Robert Franklin hit a line drive directly at Strijek. The shortstop caught the ball, tagged second base for the second out and fired to third base to end the inning, all in about three seconds. It's the only triple play Western has made this season.

"That was pretty exciting," Strijek said. "The fans liked it and it got us out of a big jam."

Throughout his career, Strijek has been on teams that have created jams, not been in them.

His 14-15-year-old Babe Ruth team won the World Series for that age group in 1980, and he was recruited by schools such as Georgia, Clemson and Oklahoma. He was drafted in the fifth round of the amateur-free agent draft follow-

School, the second-best team in New York in 1983.

"Western was the only school I visited. There were too many people at those bigger schools, and I liked the campus when I came here," Strijek said.

He also said that playing time was a big factor in coming to Western.

But with the playing time came the adjustments of the college game, college life and being far away from home.

"His problems had a lot to do with being away from home," Lepel said.

Western opens play in the Sun Belt Conference Baseball Tournament against Jacksonville today at 12 p.m. CDT. It is a goal that Strijek and his teammates have been working toward for some time.

"We worked hard over the winter, and this is what we've been shooting for all season. We've got a lot of good players and that helped us," Strijek said.

The physical education major wants to make baseball a career, and the things he's doing this summer should help him toward that goal.

Strijek was selected to play for a national team, made up mostly of freshmen and sophomores, that will be traveling to Japan, Korea and will be playing in the International Cup Tournament in Canada this summer.

Concerning his own goals, Strijek said to make it in the big leagues he has to "get more aggressive in everything."

All he has to do, according to Lepel is "keep improving like he's done this year. If he does that, the sky's the limit."

Western's Strijek hones game on field, at plate

D.N. 5-12-85

Western wins to stay alive in Sun Belt Tournament

Special to The Courier-Journal

NORFOLK, Va. — Rob Tomberlin drove in the go-ahead run with his second double of the game and Mike Roy slugged two home runs and drove in five runs as Western Kentucky University eliminated Jacksonville 7-4 in the semifinals of the Sun Belt Conference baseball tournament Monday night.

Western (43-19) played Old Dominion last night in the double-elimination tournament. An Old Dominion victory would give the Monarchs the Sun Belt championship and an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament. Western would have to beat Old Dominion twice to earn the conference title and automatic berth.

Tomberlin's second double of the game drove in Randy Strijek, who had walked, and snapped a 3-3 tie in the bottom of the seventh inning. The Hilltoppers went on to score three more runs in the inning, two on Roy's 21st homer of the season.

Tomberlin's two hits for the game gave him 97 hits for the season, tying a Sun Belt single-season record. Roy's pair of homers gave Western 112 for the season, a Sun Belt record.

Tops make Sun Belt title round

D. N. 5-14-85

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — Right-hander Tommy West became the nation's first 15-game winner as Old Dominion remained unbeaten in the Sun Belt Conference baseball tournament with a 7-3 victory over Jacksonville Monday night.

The win was the 13th straight for Old Dominion, which improved to 48-9. The Monarchs, who ran their home record to 30-1, advanced to Tuesday's championship round in the double-elimination tournament.

The loss left Jacksonville at 41-27 and moved the Dolphins into an elimination game later Monday night against Western Kentucky, which earlier in the day ousted South Florida from the tournament with an 11-inning, 8-6 decision over the Bulls. Western Kentucky eliminated Jacksonville with a 7-4 victory and advanced to Tuesday night's championship with one loss. Western plays Old Dominion at 5 p.m. CDT. If the Toppers win, they play for the championship at 8 p.m.

In Monday's first game, Bobby Velez doubled and scored in the 11th inning to lift Western Kentucky to victory. Velez came in with the go-ahead run on a Roger Daniel single as the Hilltoppers, 42-19, broke a 6-6 tie.

Western Kentucky led 5-1 in the fifth inning, but South Florida tied the score in the bottom of the eighth on Todd Waggoner's two-run homer.

The winning pitcher was Doug Taulbee, 4-1.

Reliever Ward Hemond, 1-1, took the loss for South Florida, which closed at 43-24.

In Western Kentucky's win over Jacksonville, senior first baseman Mike Roy had three hits, two of them homers, and drove in five runs.

Roy gave the 43-19 Hilltoppers a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the first with a three-run homer. Roy hit his second homer of the game — his 21st of the season — with a man on in a four-run seventh inning that snapped a 3-3 tie.

Western Kentucky's Mike Spearnock, 4-5, struck out a tournament-record 12 batters in eight innings.

Jacksonville closed at 41-28.

Dolphins' big ninth edges Tops

D. N. 5-13-85

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — Jacksonville came up with five runs in the top of the ninth to beat Western Kentucky 11-10 in the first round of the Sun Belt Conference Baseball Tournament Sunday.

The Dolphins, 41-26, scored the five runs on only two hits, with five walks off Hilltopper pitchers making the difference.

The winning hit was a two-out, two-run single by Steve Meucci off reliever Bill Vonnahme, 4-1.

Meucci's hit made a winner of reliever Pete Palermo, 8-4, who went 8 and 1-3 innings. Jacksonville starter Tony Newman was chased out of the first inning after being tagged for five runs.

Western Kentucky's Rob Tomberlin had four hits, including a pair of home runs, and drove in four runs on the day.

Western Kentucky is now 41-19.

In the second game, Old Dominion's Todd Azar had three hits and infielders Sean O'Hare and Jimmy Martin each drove in two runs as the Monarchs defeated South Florida 10-8. The win improved Old Dominion's record to 47-9.

Old Dominion snapped a 1-1 tie in the bottom of the third on O'Hare's 12th homer of the season, a two-run shot off losing pitcher Marty Valentine, 9-2.

Winning pitcher Kevin Bearse, 13-2, struck out eight, with relief help from Jim Hvizda in the final 1 and 2-3 innings.

Ward Hemond, the Bulls' designated hitter, went three for four on the night, driving in three runs.

The Bulls fell to 43-23 with the loss.

South Florida will play Western Kentucky and Old Dominion faces Jacksonville today in the second round of the double-elimination tournament.

Jacksonville 050 000 105-11 10 5
Western Kentucky 520 201 000-10 15 2
Tony Newman, Pete Palermo (2) and Robert Godfrey. Greg Bartek, Mike Ballenger (8), Bill Vonnahme (9), Eddie Jent (9) and Matt Logic. W-Palermo, 8-4. L-Vonnahme, 4-1. 2B-Jacksonville, Mark Ballard. Western Kentucky, Rob Tomberlin 2, John Clem. HR-Western Kentucky, Tomberlin 2, Jacksonville, Ballard. Team records - Jacksonville 41-26-1, Western Kentucky 41-19.

Jacksonville 000 201 001-4 9 1
Western Kentucky 300 000 40x-7 10 1
Spearneck, Jent (9), Thomas (9), and Logic; Gillis, Shantor (7), and Rone (7). W - Spearneck 4-5. L - Gillis 4-3. 2Bs Western Kentucky - Tomberlin (2), Clem. 3Bs - Jacksonville, Marabelle. HRs - Western Kentucky, Roy 2 (20-21). Jacksonville, Kennedy (14), Carr (4).
Western Kentucky 212 000 100 02-8 13 3
South Florida 000 101 220 00-6 10 2
Shikles, Taulbee (7), Jent (9), and Logic. Rose, W.Hemond (9), Comellas (11), Berry (11), and S.Hemond. W - Taulbee 4-1. L - W.Hemond 1-1. 2Bs - Western Kentucky; Ingram, Velez, and Roy. South Florida; Swabek. HRs - Western Kentucky; Tomberlin (27), and Clem (25). South Florida; Mainini (18), Pike (9), and Waggoner (8).

Western third in Sun Belt golf; Murray, Brescia hire assistant basketball coaches

From Special Dispatches

South Florida's Jim Fee shot a three-under-par 69 to rally the Bulls from three strokes down to its seventh straight men's Sun Belt Conference golfing crown at Pinehurst Country Club yesterday in Pinehurst, N.C.

Western Kentucky finished third, 11 strokes back.

Fee, along with teammate Dean Hier's 71, enabled the Bulls to shoot a team even-par 288 and pass Old Dominion on the final day of competition on the par-72, 6,890-yard No. 4 course.

Old Dominion's Alan Schulte, who fired a tourney-low four-under 68, grabbed the individual title for the second consecutive year. Schulte, with a 54-hole total 213, defeated Hiers and Western Kentucky's John Pierce, who tied for second with 217s.

BASKETBALL — Mark Bernsen

AROUND KENTUCKY

was named assistant coach at Murray State. Bernsen, 35, had a 181-69 record as head coach at Jefferson College in Hillsboro, Mo., before accepting the post under new Racers coach Steve Newton. He had seven 20-win seasons at the school.

✓ Ed Watson, Brescia College athletic director and basketball coach, said the Owensboro school has hired Tom Wethington, 23, as assistant coach. He played at Brescia this past season after playing one year at Western Kentucky and two years at Lindsey Wilson Junior College.

HARNESS RACING — Carolina Morning and Town Tattler, a pair of

3-year-old fillies who have already won in 1:56½ this season, head today's field for the \$12,600 Belle Breezing Stake at The Red Mile.

Saturday, Justin Frost and Wave Damage are the early favorites in the \$10,150 Henry Clay Colt Stake.

Carolina Morning has been racing, and winning, at The Meadows near Pittsburgh and Scioto Downs in Columbus, Ohio. She won in 1:59½ on April 20 at The Meadows and scored last weekend in 1:56½ at Scioto Downs, a five-eighths mile track. Alan Riegle will drive Carolina Morning.

Town Tattler will be driven by Kelly O'Donnell. The filly has six victories in nine starts this year, all at The Meadowlands. Among her Big M triumphs were scores in 1:59½, 1:57½ and 1:56½ on March 27.

ODU drops Tops 11-10

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — For a player who didn't start, Old Dominion utility infielder Tommy Bell made the most of his opportunity when the Sun Belt Conference baseball tournament was on the line.

Bell played two different positions and banded out two hits, the second of which won the game Tuesday night, as Old Dominion withstood an 18-hit attack by Western Kentucky and captured the Sun Belt title with an 11-inning, 11-10 victory over the Hilltoppers.

The victory, Old Dominion's 14th straight, gave the Monarchs their first Sun Belt title and an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament later this month. Old Dominion has appeared in the NCAA field once before, in 1982 when the Monarchs received an at-large invitation.

Western Kentucky, appearing in

its first Sun Belt tournament, closed at 43-20.

Bell, who also scored twice and knocked in a pair of runs, entered the game early when Old Dominion second baseman Wiley Lee injured his shoulder. The senior reserve later moved to third base when sophomore Jim Martin was struck in the back of the head with a ball while running to second base.

Bell's grounder to deep short in the bottom of the 11th scored Dave McGovern with the winning run as Old Dominion improved to 49-9, the most victories in the school's history.

With one out in the 11th, McGovern walked and advanced to third on a single by Rob Sessoms. Old Dominion's Tom Duke then struck out before Bell came through with his second hit.

Old Dominion, which produced 13 hits on the night, took a 9-8 lead in

the eighth on Nick Boothe's three-run homer.

The Hilltoppers knotted the score at 9-9 on a Matt Logic double in the ninth.

Western Kentucky took a 10-9 lead when Roger Daniel hit a leadoff home run in the 10th.

The Monarchs evened the score on a sacrifice fly by Warren Willey in the bottom half of the inning.

The Hilltoppers' Randy Strijek led all batters with four singles in six at-bats.

Larry Shickles, 9-4, took the loss for Western Kentucky.

Western Kentucky 201 020 121 11-10 18 1
Old Dominion 050 000 040 10-11 13 5
Baer, Taulbee (2), Trapp (5), Ballenger (8), Pierce (9), Shickles (10), Vannahme (11) and Logic; Imes, Hvizda (9), and Duke. W — Hvizda 5-2; L — Shickles 9-4. HRs — Western Kentucky, Daniel 2 (10,11). Old Dominion, Boothe (11). 2Bs — Western Kentucky, Roy, Ingram, and Logic. Old Dominion, Sessoms.
Team records — Western Kentucky 43-20, Old Dominion 49-19.

Golf

SUN BELT CONFERENCE

At Pinehurst, N.C.

Teams — Old Dominion 295; Va. Commonwealth 296; South Florida 298; Western Kentucky 299; Jacksonville 307; Alabama-Birmingham 307; South Alabama 311; North Carolina Charlotte 314.

Individuals: 71 — John Pierce (Western); 72 — Dave Newland (VCU); Rae Keller (VCU); Western Kentucky: 74 — Mike Vinnick; 75 — Mike Newton, 79 — Eddie Carmichael, Phillip Hatchett.

SUNBELT CONFERENCE TOURNEY

Championship at Norfolk, Va.

TUESDAY

Western Ky. ... 201 020 121 10-10 18 1
Old Dominion 050 000 040 11-11 13 4
John Baer, Doug Taulbee (2), Mike Trapp (5), Mike Ballenger (8), Kevin Pearce (9), Larry Shickles (10), Bill Vannahme (11) and Matt Logic. Rodney Imes, Jim Hvizda (9) and Tom Duke. W — Hvizda (5-2). L — Shickles (9-4). 2B — Mike Roy (WK), Gerald Ingram (WK), Mike Sessoms (OD), Matt Logic (WK), Tom Reichel (OD). HR — Roger Daniel (WK) 2, Nick Booth (OD). Team records: Western Ky. 43-20, Old Dominion 49-19.

By THOMAS T. ROSS

Daily News Sports Editor

Western's 1985 baseball season officially came to a close Monday with the NCAA's announcement of the field for the 39th annual NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.

Western, winner of the Sun Belt Conference West Division and the league championship runner-up, was hoping for an at-large bid to the tournament but was snubbed.

Old Dominion, winner of the SBC, received an automatic bid after last week's 11-10 win over the Hilltoppers in the league championship game at Norfolk, Va.

But when the at-large bids were released Monday, Western was nowhere to be found on the list, despite its 43-20 record. This is due largely to the fact that several teams considered to be the favorite in their respective conferences were upset in their league championship games, and the NCAA gave the bids to them.

The 13 at-large bids went to: Miami (Fla.), Louisiana State, New Orleans, Florida, Texas, South Carolina, Arizona, Oklahoma, Michigan, Houston, Virginia, California and Nebraska.

"I was thinking a lot about the bids yesterday, and I guess I'm mostly disappointed for my ballplayers, especially the juniors who will be signing pro contracts and my seniors who graduated," said Western coach Joel Murrie earlier today.

"Those guys wanted to play a little more this year, and deservedly so I feel. But to dwell on that would make you overlook the things we've overcome to make this program successful, and you would overlook all the things we accomplished this year.

"It's a lot more important to look at the whole thing than just looking at that one run in the championship game or not getting a bid to the NCAA. To do that, you would take away a lot of the things the kids did this year."

Indeed, the Hilltoppers accomplished much on the mound, at the plate and out on the field this season.

Murrie, assistant coach Joel Lepel and graduate assistant Kevin Benzing, the smallest coaching crew in the league in terms of staff size, brought Western out of the league cellar it was in last year

NCAA baseball

MISSION, Kan. (AP) — Here is the complete field, with first-round pairings, records and regional dates, for the 39th annual NCAA Division I Baseball Championship:

East Regional

At Columbia, S.C., May 23-26
Old Dominion, 49-9, vs. Western Carolina, 35-33

South Carolina, 43-20, vs. La Salle, 29-18
Rider, 26-10, vs. St. John's, N.Y., 31-19

South II Regional

At Tallahassee, Fla., May 23-26
Arkansas, 45-13, vs. Eastern Kentucky, 41-27

Florida St., 57-21, vs. George Mason, 38-21

Georgia Tech, 39-17-1, vs. Central Michigan, 38-17

Midwest Regional

At Stillwater, Okla., May 24-26
Oklahoma St., 54-13-1, vs. Minnesota, 33-21

and made it a national power this season.

The Hilltoppers repeatedly were ranked among the Top Thirty teams in the nation according to some baseball publications.

And it took Murrie just three years to make the Hilltoppers a league contender after Western dropped out of the Ohio Valley Conference and joined the SBC.

Western broke four team season

baseball team

pairings

Oral Roberts, 49-17, vs. Wichita St., 65-18
South I Regional
At Mississippi St., May 24-26
Mississippi St., 45-12, vs. West Virginia, 27-13
West I Regional
Michigan, 52-8, vs. New Orleans, 42-26
At Stanford, Calif., May 24-26
Stanford, 43-12, vs. Oregon St., 34-15
Pepperdine, 47-12-1, vs. Nebraska, 44-22
Atlantic Regional
At Coral Gables, Fla., May 24-26
Miami, Fla., 56-14, vs. Princeton, 29-10
Florida, 40-16, vs. Virginia, 37-14
Central Regional
At Austin, Texas, May 23-26
Texas, 56-12, vs. Grambling, 36-14-1
Oklahoma, 53-12, vs. Lamar, 37-22
Louisiana St., 41-16, vs. Houston, 43-15
West II Regional
At Fresno, Calif., May 23-25
Fresno St., 41-20, vs. California, 44-22
Brigham Young, 43-27, vs. Arizona, 44-20

records and eight individual season records this year.

"Last year our season (23-29-2) ended pretty early, about half way through the season as a matter of fact," Murrie joked.

"After that, Coach Lepel and myself made a commitment to go out and find some people who could help us. And we came up with some folks who ended up helping us turn our program around.

"We needed a third baseman, so we got Rob Tomberlin; we needed a center fielder and we got Gerald Ingram; we needed a left fielder and we got Juan Galan; and we needed a utility man in case something happened, so we got Bobby Velez, and then something did happen when our second baseman, Brien Blakely, got hurt.

"Now we just have to go out and do the same thing we did last year. Find talent to replace the talent that's leaving."

Part of that pool of talent that has left the Hill includes power hitters Mike Roy and John Clem, both seniors. Clem, a right fielder from Grosse Pointe Shores, Mich., led the Hilltoppers in batting this season with his .397 average.

Roy, a first baseman from Waterloo, Ill., was batting .345 going into the tournament and both were part of a trio of Hilltopper home run kings, the other being Tomberlin. Clem hit 25 homers, Roy finished with 21 and Tomberlin swatted 27. Tomberlin's and Clem's marks are league and school records.

"It's going to be tough to replace power hitters like that," Murrie

said, "but I think we'll get them. We've got our eye on some people right now that are pro draft material. But I think we'll sign them."

Others Murrie has to replace includes catcher Matt Logic, who batted .353; utility man Roger Daniel, who hit .270; and pitchers Eddie Jent and Larry Shikles, who set a single-season school mark with his nine wins on the mound.

"As far as pitching goes," Murrie said, "I've got two kids in my own backyard who I think can step in and do the job."

Murrie is reportedly looking at Bowling Green High's Tom Deller and Doug Sutton, among the best prep pitchers in the state. The two helped guide the Purples to the 13th District and Fifth Region crowns and subsequently a trip to the semistate in Elizabethtown on Thursday.

Murrie, who has amassed a brilliant 227-115-3 record in his six years on the Hill, said he's not sure whether Tomberlin, and pitchers Mike Spearnock and Greg Bartek, all juniors, will be back next year. The three pro prospects are likely to be included in the amateur draft.

3-28-85

Clem honored by SBC

John Clem, of Western's baseball team, has been chosen as the Sun Belt Conference player of the week for the seven-day period ending March 24.

A 6-3, 195-pound native of Gross Pointe Shores, Mich., Clem was instrumental in the Hilltoppers going 5-1 last week, improving their overall record at the time to 16-7. Last year, the Hilltoppers finished 23-29.

In six games during the week, the senior outfielder was 11 of 19 at the plate (.579), collecting a double, four homers and driving in 10 runs. In addition, he was three for three in stolen base attempts and scored 11 runs in the six games.

Clem's performance led the Hilltoppers to a two-game sweep of Tennessee and three other wins.

The hot hitting helped Clem raise his season batting average to a team-leading .416. In 23 games, Clem has slugged 11 home runs and driven in 23 runs.

Western's Tomberlin is All-American

Associated Press 6-1-85

OMAHA, Neb. — Third baseman Rob Tomberlin of Western Kentucky University yesterday became the school's first player ever named to the first team of the Converse All-American college baseball team.

Tomberlin, a junior from Richfield, Minn., was one of 13 players selected to the first team by the American Baseball Coaches Association. Also named to the first team as a utility player was New Mexico's Jim Fregosi Jr., son of

the manager of the Louisville Redbirds of the American Association

Tomberlin, a transfer student from Normandale Junior College in Bloomington, Minn., hit .398 and slugged a school- and Sun Belt Conference-record 27 home runs the past season for the Hilltoppers. He drove in 70 runs while compiling an .817 slugging percentage and becoming the first Sun Belt player in history to collect 100 hits in a season.

Western's last All-America baseball player was catcher Ralph An-

tone, who was named to the second team in 1983.

Also named to this year's first team were pitchers Greg Swindell of Texas, Jeff Brantley of Mississippi State and Mike Cook of South Carolina, catcher B. J. Surhoff of North Carolina, first baseman Will Clark of Mississippi State, second baseman Bill Bates of Texas, shortstop Barry Larkin of Michigan, outfielders Pete Incaviglia of Oklahoma State, Frank Fazzini of Florida State and Gary Cooper of Brigham Young, and designated hitter Dave Otto of Missouri.

WKU's Murrie signs a pair of juco players

7-19-85

By THOMAS T. ROSS
Daily News Sports Editor

Joel Murrie, Western's baseball coach, has announced the signings of two junior college players.

Scott Hibbert, a transfer from Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Ill., and Buddy Turner, who played at Walters State Community College in Morristown, Tenn., have signed with the Hilltoppers in hopes of filling the spots left by third baseman Rob Tomberlin and outfielder John Clem.

Hibbert (5-10, 180), who also can play catcher, smacked 15 home runs and had 58 RBI on his way to a .340 batting average last spring at LCC. He was named JUCO All-Region and All-American honorable mention.

"He's a bonafide power hitter," Murrie said. "We're hoping he can come in and take over for Tombo (Tomberlin). And we think he can match or exceed his junior college home run production."

Turner, a center fielder who captained WSCC to the runner-up spot in the Tennessee State JUCO

Baseball Tournament last spring, may be Western's lead-off hitter next spring.

"He has excellent speed and that's what we've been looking for," Murrie said. "And he may give us the opportunity to move (Randy) Strijek down the batting order."

Strijek, Western's All-Sun Belt shortstop, hit .328 at lead-off last spring. Turner, 6-0 and 185 pounds, hit .425 last spring to lead WSCC in batting and popped 10 home runs out of the park. Drafted by the Seattle Mariners, Turner also stole 26 bases.

"We hope he fills the void left by Clem," Murrie said, "but he doesn't have the power of a John Clem (.400 and 25 home runs). I wouldn't consider Turner a home run hitter, but he has the capabilities of hitting it out."

Mike Roy, Western's All-SBC first baseman last spring, has been signed by the Minnesota Twins. He is playing for the Twins' rookie club in Elizabethton, Tenn., in the Appalachian League. As of Monday, the club stood at 7-17 — last place — in the league.

But Roy's power may help the club. He had an batting average of .356, belted out 21 home runs and had 58 RBI last spring for Western, winner of the SBC West Division pennant. His fielding average at Western stood at .991.

Murrie signs 2 pitchers

7-24-85
Joel Murrie, Western's baseball coach, today announced the signings of two pitchers.

Both Doug Piatt and Paul Zack are junior college transfers and figure to fit immediately into the Hilltoppers' starting rotation.

Piatt (6-0, 185), is a right hander from Gulf Coast Community College in Panama City, Fla., where he compiled a two-year record of 12-2. Piatt, of Beaver, Pa., went 7-1 in the spring with a 1.6 ERA. An all-state JUCO performer, he was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals.

A power pitcher, he has been clocked in the lower 90s.

Zack (6-1, 185), also a right hander, comes from Morris Community College in New Jersey where he compiled a two-year record of 11-4. He went 4-2 this year but was plagued by a minor injury to his pitching arm. Murrie said the injury won't hamper Zack's performance next spring.

The Linden, N.J. native was drafted by the New York Yankees in the fourth round of the 1985 draft. MCC finished third in the nation at the JUCO World Series this year. Also a power pitcher who can slip in a fastball and a slider, he has been clocked in the upper 80s.

The signings make a total of six prospects Murrie has inked so far this summer. Five are juco transfers and one is a freshman and three of them have been drafted by professional teams. Murrie is looking to sign an outfielder and an infielder to wind up his recruiting this year.

Angels sign Spearnock

9-13-85
Mike Spearnock, a two-time All-Sun Belt Conference pitcher at Western, has signed with the California Angels organization.

Spearnock, of Edison, N.J., signed Thursday night and will report in March to the Angels spring training camp in Arizona.

Western's top left hander for the last two years will be playing with the Quad Cities franchise, an A club in Midwest League.

Spearnock was 4-5 this year. He was 6-3 as a freshman and 4-4 as a sophomore. His 3.67 ERA as a sophomore was his best at Western.

Spearnock appeared in 41 games in three years and had 33 starts. He struck out 173 batters during his career.